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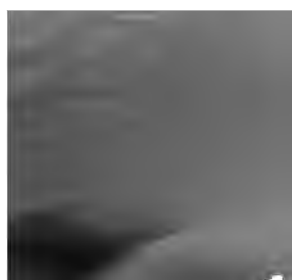
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*In Memory of*  
**STEPHEN SPAULDING**  
*1907 - 1925*  
*CLASS of 1927*  
**UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN**

*March 1927*



INGTON  
BY THE SOCIETY  
1899



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RECORDS  
OF THE  
COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMPILED BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION AND THE RECORDING  
SECRETARY.

VOLUME 2.

WASHINGTON  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
1899



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1899.

*General*  
*Sketches of the History of the*  
*City of Washington*  
*1800-1865*

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AT THE

1912 MARCUS BAKER  
W J MCGEE



## STANDING COMMITTEES.

---

### *On Seal and Motto.*

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| ALEX. B. HAGNER                | MARCUS BAKER |
| MISS ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON |              |

### *On Communications.*

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| W J MCGEE    | MARCUS BAKER |
| M. I. WELLER |              |

### *On Membership.*

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| M. I. WELLER | A. R. SPOFFORD |
| A. B. HAGNER | MARCUS BAKER   |
| T. W. NOYES  |                |

### *On Publication.*

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| S. C. BUSEY  | W J MCGEE |
| MARCUS BAKER |           |

### *On Building.*

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| LEWIS J. DAVIS   | S. C. BUSEY  |
| HENRY A. WILLARD | M. F. MORRIS |
| J. ORMOND WILSON |              |

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

---

### *On L'Enfant Memorial.*

J. DUDLEY MORGAN  
A. B. HAGNER

J. A. KASSON  
HUGH T. TAGGART

### *On Admission to Washington Academy of Sciences.*

S. C. BUSEY

MARCUS BAKER  
W J MCGEE

### *On Bibliography of Washington City and District of Columbia.*

W. B. BRYAN  
M. I. WELLER

J. F. HOOD  
A. R. SPOFFORD  
S. C. BUSEY

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCI-  
ETY, NOVEMBER, 1898.**

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alvord, Henry Elijah,            | Agricultural Department.     |
| Ames, John Griffith,             | 1600 Thirteenth Street.      |
| Baker, Frank,                    | 1804 Columbia Road.          |
| Baker, John A.,                  | 1819 H Street.               |
| †Baker, Marcus,                  | 1905 Sixteenth Street.       |
| Barnard, Job,                    | 1306 Rhode Island Avenue.    |
| Beale, Charles F. T.,            | Metropolitan Club.           |
| Beall, Mrs Mary Stevens,         | 1643 Thirty-second Street.   |
| Blount, Henry Fitch,             | The Oaks, 3101 U Street.     |
| Bovée, J. Wesley,                | 1404 H Street.               |
| Brown, Glenn,                    | 918 F street.                |
| Bryan, J. H.,                    | 818 Seventeenth Street.      |
| Bryan, Wilhelmus Bogart,         | 1330 Eighteenth Street.      |
| Busey, Samuel Clagett,           | 1545 I Street.               |
| Byington, Miss Marie E.,         | 1468 Rhode Island Avenue.    |
| Carlisle, Calderon,              | Fendall Bldg., 344 D Street. |
| Clark, Allen C.,                 | 605 F Street.                |
| Clarke, Daniel B.,               | 1422 Massachusetts Ave.      |
| Clephane, Walter C.,             | 1922 Sixteenth Street.       |
| Cook, George Wythe,              | 3 Thomas Circle.             |
| Cox, Walter S.,                  | 1636 I Street.               |
| Crisfield, Arthur,               | 1725 G Street.               |
| Curtis, William Eleroy,          | 1801 Connecticut Ave.        |
| Cutter, Edwin C.,                | 1408 G Street.               |
| Cutts, James Madison,            | 2815 N Street.               |
| Davis, Eldred G.,                | 2211 R Street.               |
| Davis, Henry E.,                 | The Concord.                 |
| Davis, Lewis J.,                 | 1411 Massachusetts Ave.      |
| Emery, Matthew G.,               | 207 I Street.                |
| Edson, John Joy,                 | 1324 Sixteenth Street.       |
| Ffoulke, Charles Mather,         | 2013 Massachusetts Ave.      |
| Finley, H. J.,                   | 2137 Phelps Place.           |
| Fletcher, Miss Alice Cunningham, | 214 First Street S. E.       |
| Fletcher, Robert,                | The Portland.                |
| Flint, Weston,                   | 1213 K Street.               |
| †Founders,                       |                              |

8      *Records of the Columbia Historical Society.*

|                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Gallaudet, Edward Miner,          | Kendall Green.             |
| Galt, William,                    | 720 Ninth Street.          |
| †Gardner, Lawrence,               | 510 I Street.              |
| †Goddard, William Whitney,        | Gov't Hospital for Insane. |
| Green, Bernard Richardson,        | 1738 N Street.             |
| Gurley, William Burton,           | 1401 Sixteenth Street.     |
| †Hagner, Alexander Burton,        | 1818 H Street.             |
| Hearst, Mrs Phoebe Apperson,      | 1400 New Hampshire Ave.    |
| †Hood, James Franklin,            | 1017 O Street.             |
| Hopkins, Archibald,               | Court of Claims.           |
| Howison, Robert R.,               | Fredericksburg, Va.        |
| Huddleson, Miss Sara M.,          | 214 First Street N. E.     |
| Hume, Frank,                      | 1235 Massachusetts Ave.    |
| Hutcheson, David,                 | Library of Congress.       |
| Hutchins, Stilson,                | 1003 Massachusetts Ave.    |
| Janney, Bernard Taylor,           | 1671 Thirty-first Street.  |
| Jeffords, Tracy L.,               | City Hall.                 |
| Jewell, Claudius Buchanan,        | 1324 Vermont Avenue.       |
| Johnson, H. L. E.,                | 1402 L Street.             |
| †Johnston, Miss Elizabeth Bryant, | 1320 Florida Avenue.       |
| Johnston, Miss Frances Benjamin,  | 1332 V Street.             |
| Kasson, John Adam,                | 1726 I Street.             |
| Kauffmann, Samuel Hay,            | 1421 Massachusetts Ave.    |
| King, Mrs Isabel,                 | 1120 Vermont Avenue.       |
| Kober, George M.,                 | 1819 Q Street.             |
| Lambert, Tallmadge A.,            | 410 Fifth Street.          |
| Lelter, Levi Ziegler,             | 1500 New Hampshire Ave.    |
| Lenman, Miss Isobel Hunter,       | 1100 Twelfth Street.       |
| Locker, Henry B.,                 | 3112 Q Street.             |
| Lowndes, James,                   | 1707 Rhode Island Ave.     |
| †McGee, W. J.,                    | Bur. of Amer. Ethnology.   |
| McGuire, Frederick Bauders,       | 1333 Connecticut Avenue.   |
| Madeira, Miss Lucy,               | 1511 Thirteenth Street.    |
| Magruder, G. Lloyd,               | 815 Vermont Avenue.        |
| Mason, Otis Tufton,               | 1721 P Street.             |
| Moore, Frederic Lawrence,         | 1680 Thirty-first Street.  |
| Moore, John, U. S. A.,            | 903 Sixteenth Street.      |
| Moore, Mrs Virginia Campbell,     | 1680 Thirty-first Street.  |
| Morgan, James Dudley,             | 919 Fifteenth Street.      |
| †Morris, Martin F.,               | 1314 Massachusetts Ave.    |
| †Founders                         |                            |

# *List of Members.*

9

|                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Newcomb, Simon, U. S. N.,           | 1620 P Street.              |
| †Nicolay, John G.,                  | 212 B Street S. E.          |
| †Noyes, Theodore Williams,          | 1616 S Street.              |
| Noyes, Thomas C.,                   | Office Evening Star.        |
| Ord, Pacificus,                     | 1913 Pennsylvania Ave.      |
| Powell, Mrs Altha Gibbs,            | 722 Thirteenth Street.      |
| †Powell, John Wesley,               | 910 M Street.               |
| Powell, William Bramwell,           | Franklin School.            |
| Pulizzi, Mrs Irene E.,              | 2305 M Street.              |
| †Richards, Joseph Havens Cowles,    | Georgetown University.      |
| Richardson, Mrs Charles Williamson, | 1102 L Street.              |
| Richardson, Francis Asbury,         | 1308 Vermont Avenue.        |
| †Riggs, E. Francis,                 | 1311 Massachusetts Ave.     |
| Rives, Mrs Jeannie Tree,            | 1818 Jefferson Place.       |
| †Ross, John Wesley,                 | Dist. Com'rs. Building.     |
| Smith, Thomas W.,                   | 616 East Capitol Street.    |
| Sowers, Z. T.,                      | 1320 New York Avenue.       |
| †Spofford, Ainsworth Rand,          | 1621 Massachusetts Ave.     |
| Stewart, John,                      | 28 I Street N. E.           |
| Sunderland, Byron,                  | 328 C Street.               |
| †Taggart, Hugh T.,                  | 3249 N Street.              |
| Townsend, George Alfred,            | Library of Congress.        |
| Warner, Brainard Henry,             | 916 F Street.               |
| †Weller, Michael Ignatius,          | 400 Pennsylvania Ave. S. E. |
| West, Henry Litchfield,             | 1364 Harvard Street.        |
| Whittenmore, William Clark,         | 1526 New Hampshire Ave.     |
| Willard, Henry A.,                  | 1333 K Street.              |
| Wilson, James Ormond,               | 1439 Massachusetts Ave.     |
| Wilson, Thomas,                     | 1218 Connecticut Avenue.    |
| Wolf, Simon,                        | 1531 N Street.              |
| Woodward, Thomas P.,                | 507 E Street.               |

Number of founders, 36; number retaining membership, 17. Of the 19 whose names are not retained on the roster of membership, 8 never accepted membership, 5 have died, 5 have resigned, and one has never paid any dues.

†Founders



## EXPLANATION.

As early as August, 1895, the Society commenced the publication of its records, issuing the first volume in the form of fascicles, usually containing one paper, selected by the Committee on Publication. In this manner the first volume of 242 pages was completed in July, 1897. In May, 1898, the paper of Mr Spofford, entitled, "The Life and Labors of Peter Force, Mayor of Washington," containing thirteen pages, was published as the first fascicle of Volume 2. Subsequently, November, 1898, the Board of Managers changed the style of publication from that of the brochure form to that of a volume, and directed the Committee on Publication to include in such volume such, and only such, papers as the Board might order to be published, together with the reports of officers and proceedings of its meetings. This action of the Board effected, for the time being, the abandonment of the brochure and adoption of the volume form, the consequent obliteration of the first fascicle of Volume 2, and the republication of Mr Spofford's paper in its proper place in the Reminiscences of the Mayors in this volume.

The foregoing statement has been deemed necessary to avoid the confusion of issuing two volumes numbered 2, one consisting only of a single paper in the brochure form.

## CONSTITUTION.

(Amended and Revised, February 7, 1898.)

### ARTICLE 1.

#### *Title.*

The name of this Society shall be the COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

### ARTICLE 2.

#### *Objects.*

The objects of the Society shall be the collection, preservation, and diffusion of knowledge respecting the history and topography of the District of Columbia and National history and biography.

### ARTICLE 3.

#### *Members.*

SECTION 1. This Society shall consist of active, corresponding, and honorary members. Active members shall be residents of the District. Honorary members shall be persons eminent in historical attainments, resident elsewhere.

SEC. 2. New members may be proposed through the Recording Secretary, by two members, in writing, and the Board of Managers shall vote upon proposed members at their next ensuing meeting. No nominee shall be elected against whom three negative ballots are cast.

SEC. 3. The annual dues of active members shall be fixed by the Board of Managers, and shall be due on the first of January for the ensuing year. The fee for life membership shall be fifty dollars (\$50).

ARTICLE 4.

*Officers.*

SECTION 1. The officers shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Curator, a Chronicler, and eight Managers, who together shall constitute an executive body called the Board of Managers. Five officers shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Managers.

SEC. 2. The officers shall be elected annually, to serve until the close of the meeting at which their successors are chosen. The term of office shall be, for the Managers four years, for all other officers one year. The Managers shall be grouped in four classes of two each, and one class shall be chosen at each annual meeting to serve four years. All officers shall be chosen from among the active or life members, by ballot, without formal nominations. Only active and life members whose dues are paid shall be entitled to vote.

SEC. 3. The Board of Managers shall have power, (a) to fill all vacancies occurring in its own membership; (b) to determine the times, places, and programmes for the meetings; (c) to appoint committees; and (d) to transact all business not otherwise provided for.

SEC. 4. The duty of the Chronicler shall be the preparation and the presentation at each annual meeting of a succinct statement of the principal events of historic interest which have transpired within the District of Columbia during the preceding calendar year.

ARTICLE 5.

*Meetings.*

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in January, at which annual reports, election of officers, and other business shall be in order. The

regular meetings shall be held monthly, except during the summer adjournment, to be determined by the Board of Managers.

SEC. 2. The regular meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held immediately before the annual and regular meetings of the Society, and special meetings may be called by the President or by five members of the Board.

ARTICLE 6.

*Finances.*

SECTION 1. The Treasurer shall receive dues and other accessions to the funds of the Society, and shall account for the same. He shall deposit in bank, to the credit of the Society, all funds received by him, and shall submit an annual report, which shall be audited by a committee of three members, who are not officers, to be chosen by the Society at the regular meeting next preceding the annual meeting.

SEC. 2. All receipts from life membership fees shall be invested as a permanent fund, the interest only to be used for current expenses.

SEC. 3. Payments from the funds of the Society shall be made only on the drafts of the Treasurer, countersigned by the President.

SEC. 4. No debts shall be contracted nor payments made except by authority of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE 7.

*Amendments.*

This Constitution may be amended by a majority of members present at an annual meeting, but notice of any proposed amendment, which must be signed by

not less than three members, shall be submitted in writing at least one month previous, at a regular meeting, to the Secretary, who shall mail a printed copy of each amendment to every member at least one week prior to the annual meeting.

---

Resolution adopted by the Board of Managers, February 18, 1895:

On motion of Mr Spofford it was voted that the edition of the first fascicle of the Records of the Columbia Historical Society (containing charter, constitution, presidential addresses, list of members, etc.) shall be 500 copies, and that the edition of later fascicles be 350 copies, unless otherwise ordered.

On motion of Mr Kasson it was (April 1, 1895),

*Resolved*, That the original, or a copy, of every paper heretofore or hereafter read before the Society, be left with the Recording Secretary for the Archives; and that the Committee on Publication be authorized, in their discretion, to publish the same or any part thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

---

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 226, VOL. 1.

---

- 1897, Feb. 1. History of Pennsylvania Avenue during the First Half of the Century. Samuel C. Busey. Published in "Pictures of the City of Washington in the Past."
- 1897, Mar. 15. Boundary Monuments of the District of Columbia. Marcus Baker. Published in Vol. I, p. 215-224.
- 1897, May 7. National Nomenclature of Streets for the Nation's Capital. Alexander B. Hagner. Published by the Author.
- 1897, June 8. Reminiscences of the Mayors of Washington. Col. James G. Berret. Vol. 2.  
Peter Force, Mayor of Washington. Alinsworth R. Spofford. Vol. 2.  
Robert Brent. James Dudley Morgan. Vol. 2.  
Rapine, Blake, Orr, and Smallwood. M. I. Weller. Vol. 2.
- 1897, Nov. 1. L'Enfant's Map of Washington. Samuel C. Busey. Published in "Pictures of the City of Washington in the Past."  
Notes on the Building of Cabin John Bridge. William T. S. Curtis. Vol. 2.
- 1897, Dec. 6. A Decade of the Public Schools of Washington. William B. Powell. Unwritten.
- 1898, Jan. 10. The White House from John Adams to James Madison. John G. Nicolay. Manuscript withheld by the author.
- 1898, Feb. 7. The Surveyors of the District of Columbia and City of Washington. Henry B. Looker. Vol. 2.
- 1898, Mar. 7. Personal Characteristics of George Washington. Elizabeth Bryant Johnston. Unwritten.
- 1898, April 4. Sketch of Our Local Governments, with List of Officials. W. B. Bryan. Published as Senate Document No. 238, 55th Congress.
- 1898, May 2. The Life, Times, Character, and Influence of Dolly Madison. James Madison Cutts. Manuscript in archives.

**COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY—TREASURER'S REPORT,  
FEBRUARY 7, 1898.**

*Receipts.*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| To balance on hand February 1, 1897..... | \$862.73 |
| To cash from members' dues.....          | 478.25   |
|  | <hr/>    |
|  | 1,340.98 |
| To balance on hand February 7, 1898..... | 954.67   |

*Disbursements.*

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| By printing, voucher No. 45.....          | \$10.50  |
| postage, etc., voucher No. 46.....        | 5.45     |
| postage, voucher No. 47.....              | 15.00    |
| engraving, voucher No. 48.....            | 2.30     |
| printing, voucher No. 49.....             | 79.27    |
| postage, etc., voucher No. 50.....        | 12.88    |
| map, voucher No. 51.....                  | 3.00     |
| printing, voucher No. 52.....             | 42.75    |
| postage, voucher No. 53.....              | 4.50     |
| half tones, voucher No. 54.....           | 13.65    |
| printing, voucher No. 55.....             | 54.22    |
| printing, voucher No. 56.....             | 3.25     |
| envelopes, etc., voucher No. 57.....      | 11.89    |
| Mahoney's bill, etc., voucher No. 58..... | 24.25    |
| Banquet Hall, voucher No. 59.....         | 25.00    |
| hectograph, etc., voucher No. 60.....     | 6.40     |
| postage, etc., voucher No. 61.....        | 2.25     |
| Banquet Hall, voucher No. 62.....         | 25.00'   |
| postage, etc., voucher No. 63.....        | 3.50     |
| Banquet Hall, voucher No. 64.....         | 25.00    |
| printing, voucher No. 65.....             | 16.25    |
|   | <hr/>    |
|   | 386.31   |
| Balance .....                             | 954.67   |
|   | <hr/>    |
|   | 1,340.98 |

JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN,  
*Treasurer.*

## FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARIES—1897-'98. .

Your Secretaries respectfully submit this, their *fourth annual report*, for the period beginning with the twenty-fourth regular meeting of the Society, Monday evening, March 15, 1897, and ending with and including this, the fourth annual meeting, Monday evening, February 7, 1898.

During the year the Board of Managers has elected to active membership 20 persons. There have been three resignations and four deaths; the latter were—

Lewis Clephane,  
G. M. Fague,  
Gardiner G. Hubbard,  
Richard Smith,

leaving a total membership of 109 persons, of whom one is an honorary and one a life member.

The Society has held seven meetings. Of these the first three were held at the Columbian University and the last four at the Shoreham. During the year the Society and its guests have listened to eight papers and two unwritten addresses, which were discussed by eighteen persons, while seven others have each given three-minute talks on historical subjects. The average attendance has been 71; the largest being at the January meeting, when the audience numbered 140; the smallest 35, at the March meeting. The Board of Managers has held nine meetings; the average attendance has been 11, the largest 12, and the smallest 8.

Resolutions of condolence on the death of the former Vice-President, Gardiner G. Hubbard, were presented by W. J. McGee, adopted by the Society, spread upon the minutes, and a copy sent to his family.



During the year the Society has issued, at different times, four brochures of Volume I, being pages 171 to 242, inclusive, with a title page and index, thus completing Volume I of its Records. Objects of historical interest have been exhibited at its meetings and preliminary steps taken toward securing a permanent home for the Society, its library and records. Courtesies have been extended to and received from kindred associations, and Congress has been memorialized on the subject of National Nomenclature for the Streets of the Nation's Capital.

MARY STEVENS BEALL,  
M. I. WELLER,  
*Secretaries.*

#### **FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURATOR.**

I beg leave to present, as my fourth annual report, the appended list of contributions to the Society during the past year:

##### **40. MAPS of the District of Columbia.**

(a) **Topographical Map of the Original District of Columbia and Environs: Showing the Fortifications Around the City of Washington.** By E. G. Arnold, C. E. New York, 1862.

(b) **Map of the City of Washington and Environs.** Published by W. H. Morrison, 475 Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C. (1884).

(c) **Plan of the City of Washington, etc.** Engraved by Thackara & Vallance, Philadelphia. 1792. Coast Survey No. 3035.

(d) **Plan of the City, etc.** Reproduction of L'Enfant map. Coast Survey No. 3035a.

(e) **Map of the City of Washington, Showing the Location of Sewers.** 1886. Blue print.

(Presented by Mr Marion Thatcher.)

**41. Third Biennial Report of the Librarian of the Historical Society of the State of Montana.** 1895-96. Helena, Montana.

(Presented by the Society.)

**42. Street Nomenclature of Washington City.** Address by Alexander B. Hagner before the Columbia Historical Society, delivered May 3, 1897.

(Presented by the author.)

43. A History of the Government of the District of Columbia. By Walter C. Clephane, of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. 1892.

(Presented by the author.)

44. DOUGLAS (Stephen A.). An American Continental Commercial Union. Edited by J. M. Cutts.

(Presented by Col J. M. Cutts.)

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES F. HOOD, *Curator.*

MARCH 1, 1898.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

*24th meeting.*

*March 15, 1897.*

Held in the Reception Hall of the Columbian University at 8 p. m. Attendance, 35 members and guests.

President Kasson, in a short address, outlined the objects of the Society, and suggested numerous topics connected with the early history of Washington City as proper and important subjects of research for the members.

Mr Marcus Baker read a paper entitled, "The Boundary Monuments of the District of Columbia." Discussed by Messrs Weller, Kasson, Davis, and McGee. Mr Baker was appointed a committee of one to memorialize the Government of the District on behalf of the restoration of the old landmarks, as represented by the boundary stones.

Adjourned at 9 p. m.

*25th meeting.*

*May 7, 1897.*

Held in the Lecture Hall of the Columbian University at 8 p. m. Attendance, 40 members and guests.

Mr Justice Hagner read a paper entitled, "National Nomenclature of Streets for the Nation's Capital." Discussed by Messrs Kasson, Emery, Davis, Weller, Spofford, and Judge Nott. It was moved by Mr Weller, and seconded by Mr Spofford, that a committee should be appointed to memorialize Congress in connection with the paper of the evening, for the purpose of securing a change from the present scheme of naming the streets for letters to a system of alphabetical names commemorating Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and other eminent citizens.

Adjourned at 9.45 p. m.

*26th meeting.*

*May 31, 1897.*

Five hundred invitations having been issued for the 26th meeting of the Columbia Historical Society, at the Columbian University, May 31, 1897, at 8 o'clock p. m., a large audience assembled to find the building locked up and unlighted.

In explanation of the above the following letter was received from the President of the University:

*June 8, 1897.*

HON. JOHN A. KASSON:

MY DEAR SIR—I wish to make public apology for the mistake of one of the servants of the University, by which the Columbia Historical Society was disappointed Decoration Day. The mistake has been a source of great mortification to us all. If you feel inclined to say this at the meeting this evening I shall feel grateful for the favor.

Very sincerely yours,

B. L. WHITMAN.

The Columbian University, Washington, D. C.

Office of the President.

*Adjourned 26th meeting.*

*June 8, 1897.*

Held in the Lecture Hall of the Columbian University at 8 p. m. Attendance, 95 members and guests.

President Kasson announced the committee to memorialize Congress concerning the change of names for the streets of the National Capital, said memorial to embody or accompany the paper on that subject, read before the Society by Mr Justice Hagner, on May 7, 1897:

Messrs John A. Kasson, Chairman by provision of resolution creating the committee,

M. I. Weller,

Marcus Baker,  
Lewis J. Davis,  
M. F. Morris,  
J. Ormond Wilson.

The following programme on "Reminiscences of the Mayors of Washington," was then carried out: Ex-Mayor James G. Berret spoke on his personal recollection; Ex-Mayor Emery responded to a call by thanking the officers, members and guests of the Society, but declared he could add nothing to what had already been said; Hon A. R. Spofford read a paper on Peter Force; Dr J. D. Morgan read one on Robert Brent, exhibiting a portrait and photographs; and Mr M. I. Weller read one on Rapine, Blake, Orr and Smallwood.

Adjourned at 10.15 p. m.

*27th meeting.*

*November 1, 1897.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham, at 8 p. m. Attendance, about 60 members and guests.

Dr Samuel C. Busey read a paper, entitled, "L'Enfant's Map of Washington." Discussed by Messrs B. R. Green, J. G. Ames, and J. A. Wineberger.

Mr William T. S. Curtis read a paper entitled, "Notes on the Building of Cabin John Bridge." Discussed by Messrs G. Lloyd Magruder, Green, Weller, Busey, and Taggart.

Judge Hagner moved a vote of thanks to the historians of the evening.

Adjourned at 10.15 p. m.

*28th meeting.*

*December 6, 1897.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham at 8 p. m. Attendance, about 75 members and guests.

Superintendent William B. Powell addressed the Society and its guests on the subject of "A Decade of

the Public Schools of Washington," taking up the subject where the paper of Mr J. Ormond Wilson, of May 4, 1896, had left it.

Three-minute talks on Sources of Historical Information were given by Hon A. R. Spofford, Messrs M. I. Weller, W. B. Bryan, George Alfred Townsend, and Judge Hagner.

Adjourned at 10.15 p. m.

*29th meeting.*

*January 10, 1898.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham at 8.15 p. m. Attendance, about 140 members and guests.

President Kasson spoke of the death of Hon Gardiner G. Hubbard, and his connection with this Society. Professor W J McGee offered the following resolutions of condolence, which were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, Gardiner Greene Hubbard, a founder and one-time Vice-President of the Columbia Historical Society, has gone from among us forever. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this Society note with profound sorrow the death of our honored associate, whose labors for the enrichment of knowledge and for the welfare of mankind end only with his life.

*Resolved*, That the foregoing expression be communicated to the family, and that this Society take steps toward uniting with other institutions of the National Capital in perpetuating Mr Hubbard's memory.

Owing to the illness of Col John G. Nicolay he could not be present, but his paper, entitled, "The White House from John Adams to James Madison," was read by Prof. W J McGee. Discussed by President Kasson.

Miss Marie E. Byington exhibited an impression of the Declaration of Independence, taken in 1823; Col J. M. Cutts, a daguerreotype of Dolly Madison, the last

picture known to have been taken of her before her death; and Judge A. B. Hagner, some letters from James Madison.

Adjourned at 9.45 p. m.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

*30th meeting.*

*February 7, 1898.*

Held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham at 8.10 p. m. Attendance, about 50 members and guests.

Mr Henry B. Looker read a paper entitled, "Surveyors of the District of Columbia and City of Washington." Discussed by Messrs Cutts, Morgan, Kasson, Weller, and Marcus Baker. Dr Morgan exhibited photographs of L'Enfant's unmarked grave, and President Kasson filed with the Secretary, to be kept among the records of the Society, the copy of a bill introduced by him while a member of the House of Representatives, May 22, 1884, "To authorize the erection of a monument in memory of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant."

The Society then transacted the business appertaining to the annual meeting.

The Treasurer presented his report; the Chair appointed Messrs Cutts, Looker, and Magruder, as auditors. Report approved and adopted.

The Recording Secretary read the report of the Secretaries. Approved and accepted.

The Curator being absent on account of illness, his report was read by the Secretary. Approved and accepted.

The members of the Society having already received printed copies of the proposed amendments to its Constitution, Mr. Spofford, as chairman of the committee to whom that business was entrusted, explained briefly



why such amendments were deemed necessary. Col Cutts, Dr Magruder, and Mrs Beall proposed some amendments to the amendments, and after discussion, participated in by Messrs Hagner, Kasson, Baker, Weller, McGee, Magruder, Spofford, and Cutts, the Amended Constitution was adopted as presented by the Amendment Committee.

The annual election of officers resulted as follows:

President, John A. Kasson.

Vice-Presidents, Ainsworth R. Spofford,

Alexander B. Hagner.

Treasurer, James Dudley Morgan.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mary Stevens Beall.

Corresponding Secretary, M. I. Weller.

Curator, James F. Hood.

Chronicler, W. B. Bryan.

Managers for 4 years, Marcus Baker,

W J McGee.

Miss Byington exhibited a Washington directory of 1836.

Adjourned at 10.30 p. m.

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L'ENFANT'S REPORTS TO PRESIDENT WASHINGTON, BEARING DATES OF MARCH 26, JUNE 22, AND AUGUST 19, 1791.

These documents have not been previously published and are not known to the general public. They are of special interest in connection with other public documents published for the first time in this volume. In view of this fact, and to complete, as far as possible, the history of L'Enfant's authorship of the plan of the city, a communication was addressed to Col. Bingham, Engineer-in-charge of the Public Buildings and Grounds, for permission to have copies of these reports for publication in the records of this Society, with the

request that the application should be referred to General John M. Wilson, Chief of Engineers, from whom the following reply was received. The copies have been made under the direction and supervision of Mr John Stewart, who has charge of the old records of the office of Public Buildings and Grounds and they are, therefore, correct.

Office of the Chief of Engineers,  
United States Army,  
Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1898.

DR S. C. BUSEY, No. 1545 I St. N. W., Wash., D. C.:

MY DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 28th ult. reached me this a. m., upon my return to the city.

It has given me pleasure to say to Col Bingham that I have no objection to your having copies of the letters you mention, and it will afford him equal pleasure to send them to you.

Yours very truly,

JOHN M. WILSON,  
Brig. Genl. Chief of Eng., U. S. A.

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NOTE RELATIVE TO THE GROUND LYING ON THE EASTERN BRANCH OF THE RIVER POTOMACK AND BEING INTENDED TO PARALLEL THE SEVERAL POSITION PROPOSED WITHIN THE LIMITS BETWEEN THE BRANCH AND GEORGETOWN FOR THE SEAT OF THE FEDERAL CITY.

After coming upon the hill from the Eastern Branch ferry the country is level and on a space of about two miles each way present a most elligible position for the first settlement of a grand City, and one which if not the only within the limits of the Federal territory is at least the more advantageous in that part lying between the Eastern Branch and Georgetown.

The soil is dry and notwithstanding well watered abounding springs it has an wholesome air and being of an easy ascent it is however so high that it command on most of the surrounding country and may be effectually guarded from those Hills overlooking it—these are on the opposite side of the water and branch from the grand western mountain which come round and Extend down on that eastern shore in bordering on the River Potowmack and they may rather be considered as a mean for protection. As the securing of their submit with proper Establishment would render that situation most respectable.

With respect to navigation it lay at the head of an extensive one and cover and from the bank of an harbor in every respect to be preferred to that of the Potowmack toward Georgetown Less impeded by ice and never so swelled with fresh— the chanell is deeper and will admit any vessel as may pass over the shalow down below at the mariland pt. being moored to warfs while they most remain at half mile off from the bank of the Potowmack owing to the main chanel bearing from the entrance into the eastern branch immediately and all the way up on the Virginia shore until it come to strik on Mason Island round which in turning it come to wash for ashore to space on the Rock at hampstead Pt. or Funktown, making its way to and from the wharfs at georgetown were the grand navigation end.

this spot made to derive every possible advantage from water conveyance would in the same time be free from the great Enconveniency attending the crossing of navigable River. the deep water in that branch not coming further up than Evans Pt. about half mile above the ferry there the large bed of the river immediately changes in to Runa over the which bridges

might easily be erected to secure a constant intercourse with the eastern continent in the meanwhile as it would facilitate seats being fixed on each border of a grand stream whose depth abound with fish, and whose aspect in affording a debaſſement from the great bustling rest the eyes from the grand sight below the City.

All the total of this ground is such as will favour every improvement as may render the City agreeable commodious and capable of promoting all sort of atil establishment on its water side from the mouth of the Eastern branch at Carroll bourough as far up as to Evans point a distance of above three miles the frequent winding of the shore form many natural wet dock which for not having every were a great depth of water nevertheless would become very convenient for the establishing of naval store and for arsenals the which as well as ware house for merchant men might safely be rised on the water edge without fear of impeding the prospect from on the Heigh flat behind.—there were the level ground on the water and all round were it decend but most particularly on that part terminating in a ridge to Jenkins Hill and running in a paralell with and at half mile off from the river Potowmack separated by a low ground intersected with three grand streams—many of the most desirable position offer for to Erect the Publique Edifices thereon—from these height every grand building would rear with a majestied aspect over the Country all around and might be advantageously seen from twenty miles off which Contiguous to the first settlement of the City they would there stand to ages in a Central point to it, facing on the grandest prospect of both of the branch of the Potowmack with the town of Alexandry in front seen in its fullest extent over many points of land projecting from the Mariland and Virginia shore in a manner as

add much to the perspective at the end of which the Cape of great Hunting Creek appears directly were a corner stone of the Federal District is to be placed and in the room of which a Majestic Colum or a grand Perysonid being erected would produce the happiest effect and Compleatly finish the landskape.

Thus in every respect advantageously situated the Federal City would soon grow of itself and spread as the branches of a tree does toward were they meet with most nourishment.

then the attractive local will lay all Round and at distance not beyond those limits within the which a City the Capital of an Extensive Empire may be delineiated.

having a bridge laid over the Eastern branch some were above Evans pt. there the natural limit of the Eastern branch of the City may be extended while in its western extrimity may be included Georgetown itself which being situated at the head of grand navigation of the Potowmack should be favoured with the same advantage of better Communication with the Southern by having also a bridge erected over the Potowmack at the place of the two Sisters were nature would effectually favour the undertaking.

there between those two points beginning with the settlement of the grand City on the bank of the Eastern branch and promoting the first improvement all along of the Heigh flat as far as were it end on Jenkins Hill would place the city central to the ground left open to its agrandisement which most undoubtedly would be rapid toward both extremity provided nevertheless that attention be paid immediately on laying the first out line of the establishment to open a direct and large avenue from the bridge on the Potowmack to that on the Eastern branch the which should be well level

passing across Georgetown and over the most advantageous ground for prospect through the Grand City, with a middle way paved for heavy carriage and walk on each side planted with double Rows of trees to the end that by making it a communication as agreeable as it will be convenient it may the more induce the improvement of either place all along and prompt the citizens in both to Exertions to shorten the distance by buildings insensibly affect the wished junction and complete a street laid out on a dimension proportioned to the greatness which a city the Capitale of a powerful Empire ought to manifest.

In viewing the Intended Establishment in the light and considering how in progress of time a city so happily situated will extend over a large surface of Ground, much deliberation is necessary for to determine on a plan for the total distribution and conceive that plan on a system which in the mean while as it most render the place commodious and agreeable to the first settler in it may be capable of having made a part of the whole when enlarged by progressive improvement, the which to be made agreeable to what will first have been erected and preserve the similar correspondence with what may only be intended should be foreseen in the first delineation in a grand plan of the whole city combined with the various ground it will cover and with the particular circumstance of the country all around.

In endeavoring to effect this it is not the regular assemblage of houses laid out in square and forming streets all parallel and uniform that is so necessary for such plan could only do on a well level plain and were no surrounding object being interesting it become indifferent which way the opening of street may be directed.

but on any other ground a plan of this sort must be defective and it never would answer for any of the spots proposed for the Federal City, and on that held here as the most eligible it would absolutely annihilate every of the advantage enumerated and the seeing of which will alone injure the success of the undertaking.

such regular plan indeed however answerable as they may appear upon paper or seducing as they may be on the first aspect to the eyes of some people most even when applyed upon the ground the best calculated to admit of it become at last tiresome and insipide and it never could be in its orrigine but a mean continance of some cool imagination wanting a sense of the real grand and truly beautifull only to be met with were nature contribut with art and diversify the objects.

It is believed that this report was delivered to President Washington at Georgetown, March 26, 1791.

JOHN STEWART, C. E.,

In charge of Records, Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, Dec. 14, 1898.

GEORGETOWN, *Jun 22--1791*

SIR. In framing the plan here anexed, for the for the intended Federal City I regreted much being indered by the shortness of time from making any particular drawing of the several buildings- squares- and every other improvement- which the smallness of the scale of the general map- together with the hurry with which I had it drawn- could not admit of having so correctly lay down as necessary to give a perfect Idea of the effect of the whole in the execution.

My whole attention was given to the combination of the general distribution of the grand local as to an object of most immediate moment and of importance to this I yielded every other consideration and have in

consequence to sollicit again your Indulgence in submitting to you my Ideas in an incomplete drawing only correct as to the situation and distance of objects all of which were determined after a local well ascertained having for more accuracy had several lines run on the ground cleared of the wood and afterwards measured with posts fixed all along, to serve me as certain bases from after the which I might arrange the whole with a certainty of making every part fit to the various grounds.

having first determined some principal points to which I wished making the rest subordinate I next made the distribution regular with streets at right angle *north-south* and *east west* but afterwards I opened others on various directions as avenues to and from every principal places, wishing by this not merely to contrast with the general regularity nor to afford a greater variety of pleasant seats and prospect as will be obtained from the advantageous ground over the which the avenues are mostly directed but principally to connect each part of the city with more efficacy by, if I may so express, making the real distance less from place to place in menaging on them a reiprocity of sight and making them thus seemingly connected promote a rapide sttlement over the whole so that the most remot may become an adition to the principal while without the help of these divergents communications such settlements if at all attempted would be languid, and lost in the Extant would become detrimental to the main establishment.

Several of these avenues were also necessary to effect the junction of of several out road which I concluded essential to bring central to the city in rendering these road shorter as is done with respect to the bladensburg and Eastern branche Road made above a mile shorter



besides the advantage of their leading from the direction given immediately on the warfs of georgetown without passing the hilly ground of that place whose agrandissement it will consequently check while it will accelerate those over Wik creek on the city side the which cannot help spreading soon all along of these avenues forming of themselves a variety of pleasant ride and being combined to injure a rapide Inter-course with all the part of the City to which they will serve as does the main vains in the animal body to diffuse life through smaller vessels in quickening the active motion to the heart.

as to on what point it is most expedient first to begone the main Establishment, I believe the question may be easily reply if not viewing by part embracing under one sight the whole extant from the Eastern branch to Georgetown and from the branch on the Potomack across toward the mountains. for considering impartially this whole extant and reflecting it is that of the Intended city than only one position will appear capable of promoting the rapid agrandizement and settlement of the whole.

across the tiber of above were the tide water come lay certainly the elligible spot to lay the Foundation of an establishment of the nature of the one in view, not because this point being central is most likely to diffuse an Equallity of advantages trough the whole territory and in turn to devise a benefit propotional to the rise of its value but because the nature of the local is such as will made everything concur to render a settlement there prosperous—there it will benefit of the natural jalousie which most stimulate establishments on each of its opposed limits it will become necessarily the point of reunion of both and soon become populoz. a canal being easy to open from the eastern

branch and to be lead across the first settlement and carried toward the mouth of the river where it will again give an issue into the Potowmack and at a distance not too far off for to admit the boats from the grand navigation canal from getting in, will undoubtedly facilitate a conveyance most advantageous to trading Interest it will insure the storing of marketts which, as lay down on the map, being erected all along the canal and over grounds proper to shelter any number of boats will serve of Mart Houses from were when the city is grown to its fullest extent the most distant markets will be supplied at command.

to these advantages of first necessity to consider to determine the seat of a City is added that of the propositions which there offer and the which are the most susceptible of any within the limits of the intended city of leading to those grand improvements of publique magnitude and as may serve as models for all subsequent undertaking and stand to future ages a monument to national genius and munificence.

After much menutial search for an eligible situation, prompted I may say from a fear of being prejudiced in favour of a first opinion I could discover no one so advantageously to greet the congressional building as is that on the west end of Jenkins heights which stand as a pedestal waiting for a monument, and I am confident, were all the wood cleared from the ground no situation could stand in competition with this. some might perhaps require less labour to be rendered agreeable but after all assistance of arts none ever would be made so grand and all other would appear but of secondary nature.

that were I determine the seat of the presidial palace, in its difference of nature may be view of advantageous to the object of adding to the sumptuousness of

a palace the convenience of a house and the agreeableness of country seat situated on that ridge which attracted your attention at the first inspection of the ground on the west side of the tiber entrance it will see 10 or 12 miles down the Potowmack front the town and harbor of Alexandria and stand to the view of the whole city and have the most improved part of it made by addition to those grand Improvements for which the ground in the dependently of the palace is to proper.

fixed as expressed on the map the distance from the Congressional House will not be to great as what the activity of business may be no mesage to nor from the president is to be made without a sort of decorum which will doubtless point out the propriety of committee waiting on him in carriage should his palace be even contiguous to Congress.

to mak however the distance less to other officers I placed the three grand Departments of State contiguous to the principle Palace and on the way leading to the Congressional House the gardens of the one together with the park and other improvement on the dependency are connected with the publique walk and avenue to the Congress house in a manner as most form a whole as grand as it will be agreeable and convenient to the whole city which form the distribution of the local will have an early access to this place of general resort and all along side of which may be placed play houses, room of assembly, accademies and all such sort of places as may be attractive to the learned and afford diversion to the idle.

I proposed continuing the canal much further up but this being not to be effectual but with the aid of lock, and from a level obtained of the height of the spring of the tiber the greatest facility being to bring

those waters over the flat back of Jenkins I gave the more readily a preference to avail of this water to supply that part of the city as it will promot the execution of a plan which I propose in this map, of leting the tiber return in its proper channel by a fall which issuing from under the base of the Congress building may there form a cascade of forty feet heigh or more than one hundred waide which would produce the most happy effect in rolling down to fill up the canall and discharge itself in the Potowmack of which it would then appear as the main spring when seen through that grand and majestic avenue intersecting with the prospect from the palace at a point which being seen from both I have designated as the proper for to erect a grand Equestrian figure.

in the present unimproved state of the local it will appear that the height were is marked that monument dose intercept the view of the water from the palace and in fact it is partly the case but it most be observed that having to bound the entrance of the tiber at the breadth of a canal of 200 ft. which is the utmost breadth that can be preserve to avoid its being drained at low water. it will require much ground to be trown in to feel up, and at least as much as will enable to levell that point of heigh ground between the tiber and P Yong House to almost a level with the tide water and of course to procure to the palace and all other houses from that place to congress a prospect of the Potowmack the which will acquire new swithness being laid over the green of a field well level and made brilant by shade of few tree artfully planted

I am with respectfull submission

Your most humble & obedient servant,

P. C. L'ENFANT.

Per

To the President of the United States.

GEORGETOWN, August 19—1791

SIR. The highest of my ambition gratified in having met with your approbation in the project of the plan which I have now the Honor of presenting to you agreeable to your direction. Still leaving me something to wish for until I see the Execution of that plan effected to the full attainment of your object.

I shall here beg the permission of fixing for a moment your attention on matter which I conceive of most importance to the advancement of the business.

The Inspection of the annexed map of dotted lines being sufficiently explanatory of the progress made in the work will I hope leave you satisfied how much more has been done than may have been expected from hands less desirous of meeting your applause and I shall confine on this subject with express the obligation I feel to be under for the kindly assistance given me by Mr Ellicott and to request if circumstances may admit of a delay in the prosecution of the business be discharged with on the frontier of Georgie—that his going there may be differed until the latter end of November next his assistance till then being most Indispensable to compleat the work begone as is necessary to have a number of lots for houses measured and marked before the time when the first sale is intended.—

this business has proved more tedious than at first considered owing to the multiplicity of operations Indispensable to determine the acute angles and intersect lines with exactness on points given at great distances in which process much difficulties was incuntered on account of the great encumbering of timber cut down in every direction the which the proprietor are aware to preserve and unwilling to remove and most consequently increase obstacles in a way to a degree

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as I am well convinced will in the end cause me the regret of falling much short from what I proposed and what is indeed most essential to perform previous a sale take place.

brought to the point as matters do now stand enough is done to satisfy every one of an earnestness in the process of execution—and the spots assigned for the Federal House and for the President palace in exhibiting the most sumptuous aspect and claiming already the suffrage of a crowd of daily visitors both natives and foreigner will serve to give a grand idea of the whole, but nevertheless it is to be wished more may be done to favour a sale—this being to serve very little towards evidencing the beauties of local reserved for private settlements all being absolutely lost in the chaos of felled timber without possibility to judge of the advantages of relative conveniency much less of agreement, to be derived from improvements intended in a surrounding local of which but few can form an idea even after inspecting a map.

The grand avenue connecting both the palace and the Federal House will be most magnificent and most convenient, the streets running west of the upper square of the Federal House and which terminate in an easy slope on the canal through the tiber which it will overlook for the space of about two mile will be beautifull above what may be imagined—those other streets parallel to that canal, those crossing over it and which are as many avenues to the grand walk from the water cascade under the Federal House to the President park and dependinly extending to the bank of the Potowmack, and also the several squares or area such as are intended for the Judiciary Court—the national bank—the grand church—the play house—market and exchange—all through will offer a varie-

ty of situation unparalleled in point of beauties—suitable to every purpose and in every point convenient both are devised for the first offset of the city and combined to command the height price in a sale.

but as I observed before these advantages lost in the lumbering of the local and not being possible to be made perceptible within the short period left—a sale at a moment so premature will not bring the ten part of what it will at some more suitable season after a rough hewn of the proposed Improvements may help to the better appreciating of the merits of situation.

besides a sale made previous the general plan of distribution of the city is made publique and before the circumstance of that sale taking place has had time to be known through the whole continent will not call a sufficient concurrence and most be confined to few Individuals speculating wanting means or inclination to improve and the consequence of a low sale in this first instance may prove injurious to the subsequent ones by serving as precedents to undervalue the remaining lots at so much less in proportion to the lessening of advantage of situation—on another part I apprehend the undersaling of lots far from promoting a speedy settlement and as many people argue of gaining friend to the establishment in inducing influential men in those—as may continue opposed to it to become interested in the prices—will rather disgrace the whole business.

it will I am convinced favor schemes already encouraged in consequence of the mediocrity of the deposit required—it will favour the plotting of a number of designing men whom in Georgetown in particular are more active than ever and use of every means to set themselves in a situation to cross the operation of the plan adopted—and whom in concert with society form-

ing in Baltimore and in other places unfriendly promise to engross the most of the sale and master the whole business.

with those apprehension and seeing on another part nothing to be gained from a sale which at best if taking place this season will only be making the transfer of a most valuable property into the hand of speculator without a prospect even of deriving from it a mean to engage with any security in the intended work to whose first demand a fund resting on the produce of a deposit most prove inadequate.

I conceive the postponing of that sale a measure which will be most expedient and advantageous to the business, as it is constant but people really inclined to purchase and earnestly disposed to Erect houses will not be on this account dissuaded from their coming on the spot tho for the instant disapointed in the object giving them a better idea of the local would I presume rather serve to prompt them to greater exertion and the idea which they will carry back most greatly serve to Influence other to come and to increase a competition for lots as the time when the sale may be put off.

this measure in some respect forced by circumstances may I presume take place consistantly by alleging the fact of an impossibility of having matter ready for it—owing to the necessity of taking the previous and necessary steps of making an equal division of property between the individual owner and the public.

the impossibility of doing this will not only result from the difficulties encountered in the mesuration of lots but will most evidently from a circumstance not yet mentioned of the proprietor of territory having not returned the survey of their possession as was repeatedly required of them and which they declined to do



until disputes arose among them respecting to boundary are settled. this not likely to be so soon done most perchance for some time from making the necessary division of property and will prevent the dividing of a mode to effect that of those lots which will be found laid across the lines of two or three different territory which most be frequent on account of the hazy way the whole property is intermingled.

Convinced no time will be found lost for to procure the necessary accommodation for Congress my intimacy with plans already forming relating to establishment on the Eastern branch—on the proposed canal and in various other parts made me not hesitate in asserting that settlements will soon be spread through—provided a due attention is given to the carrying on and speedily in every part of those improvements as are combined convenience and agreeableness of those most distant situation as they are meant to lead to the sumptuousness of the more central.—when I observe—provided a due attention is given it is because notwithstanding I indulge the Idea of seeing soon the progress of the establishment become the wonder of all, I am sensible of the consequences of a check its progress may receive and am well persuaded that Individual exertions will wait the signal and model their process on the spirit with the which the public business shall be conducted.

it being therefore essential to begin well and with an assurance of continuing with a progressive degree of activity to be had—considering that a relaxation of motion would greatly more injure the business than will a delay in moving I to this effect—under the head of public territory conceive it important not to confine the Idea to the erecting of a Congress House and a Presidential palace other exertions being necessary to prompt and enlarge private undertaking.

them alone can form the establishment answerable to its objects, and to rise the city a city in fact it is indispensable to consider every of the improvements proposed in the plan as being part most essential to the framing of principal and however differential and in-connected as they may appear to effect them at a same time and with a proportional degree of dispatch.

it is most essential to push with the utmost activity every improvement as may serve to marcantile Interest the canal through the tiber across to the eastern branch were an additional branch of it is marked in the plan, is of absolute necessity to determine and Insure a speedy settlement in that part were it is most desirable to help the conveying of material to the tow grand edifice.

the making of the publik walk from under the federal House as far as it is carried on the potomac and connected with the palace is an object which so ever trivial as it may appear to the eyes of many will be productive of as much advantage as the first mentioned objects in giving to the City at its first offset a superiority of agreements over most of the city of the world as it will gaine one over them all in point of convenience of distribution after bringing the various Squares or area to their Intended shape and giving a regular and well combined stop to and leveling every grand avenu and principle streets—beginning with the most transversal and were settlements are most essential—not however ending them were house end but indiscriminately extending those improvements all over adulterating them on those parts the less attractive to prompt settlements thereon.—no need being of hastening to encourage them on more advantageous situation—the which it may be well to preserve until the great rise of their value make it worth the sacrifice.

these idea already held to your consideration and the which met your approval at the first beginning of the business--having directed my attention in divising a plan of distribution of local as I conceived to be the best calculated to this effect made me consider an appropriation of the several squares as one proposed in the plan to be allotted to each of the individual states as also the making of a free donation to every particular religious society of a ground for House of wors'h a move from which Infinite advantage most result.

each of these Establishments tho probably small at first being equally distended and near situated I will by a gradual accrossment soon connect and will from their beginning form a chain of Improvement round the principle part of the city which will extend by a scattering of settlement all along of those transversal and divergent avenues were none of them will be lost nor will be to distant from the Federal House or the President Palace.

Betwixt these tow Edifices in the streets from the Grand avenu to the Palace toward the canal there will be a proper stand for shop--for mechanic and every people in various business, and the stimulate to builth houses in those part being so great it is not to be doubted that they will be erected contiguous to each other and in a short time will increase to a number sufficient to afford a convenience in the intercourse of business and to procure proper accommodation to Congress member and every officer and other people attached to the executive.

A marche so wholly different from the ordinary way of forming a town it is presumable will meet with your opos'n and be much objected to by people who will compute the accusement of towns existing with and

draw Inference from them in concluding against the plan I propose.

it will also—as far as it may affect speculation on publick property encite many to disclaim against, but upon the whole every objection as may tend to a contraction of the operation of the systeme most likely to arise from people interested in lowering the value of property or perhaps lead from motives whose good intent to the whole business may be questioned I am in hope people actuated from more independent principle will consider and that however prejudice may blind them on the advantages while they Enumerate the Inconveniency in their Idea likely to result from the process—they will own that a success in the attainment of the end the systeme is combined to promote would be most prosperous. and confident in that success I feel the more encouraged to submit my Idea thereon to your judgment.

as to the question as to what are the means necessary and how to secure them I will observe that those means must be extensive proportioned to the magnitude of the undertaking and that so ever large as I conceive they ought to be I consider the property at your disposal fully proportionate to the object if attention is given in managing it

15,000 lots will fall in the share of the publick as half of the property left for improvements after deduction made of streets and of ground appropriated to publick property—these lots will be of various sise from 66 ft. to 37 in front and from 4 to 7 in an acre—the sum that will arise from the sale most be immense but as I observed it will only be if cautiously managed. for notwithstanding the amount of them lots most be Enormarory, I fear that under this Idea and when undervaluing the Magnitude of the work proposed it may in-

duce to a prodigality of those means in saling on low terms the most valuable proof of lots a circumstance which would in my opinion prove as destructive to the attainment of the grand object as would a contraction of measure determined after a timorous survey of the mass of the undertaking the which is offering a labyrinth of difficulties would soon magnify them to a diffidence of power to surmount.

therefore it is of importance the whole matter should be contemplated coolly and to be even short of the time left to effect it may appear not be hurried in to process nor to engage in it but after having secured effectual mean to supply the daily expenditure.

those means at your disposal were proportioned to the object and I consider them so if other means are first secured to rise the property to its proper value.

for to look upon that property at this moment as a mean of supply and to use of this mean to defray the first expenditure of the beginning of the work would indeed be to expunge all resources before the moment is come for availing of them.

because admitting the disadvantageous terms of the sale is advertized as may be altered and were supposing the sale to be productive from the beginning the produce must be various and a fund nearly depending on it will never injure a timely supply to daily expenditure a circumstance which would necessitate a frequent change in the mode of conducting matter, would delay the progress of work begun consequently occasion a loss and a misapplication of means and of time which in the course of every grand undertaking but most unavoidably in one of the magnitude of that under consideration would work a dissipation of every means to an absolute dissapointment in the object to attain.

from these consideration a better security of funds being necessary to combine a plan of operation the good of which can only be inferred aided by punctual payments and regular and plentiful supply of materials it is well expedient first to devise the necessary means considering that economie in a pursuit of this nature lay in being aided with mercenary hands with the power of pouring means there were they may accelerate the leveling of difficulties frequent to encounter.

Viewing matter in this light and being convinced money is the principal wheel to give and continue the motion to the machine left to organize I shall make it the object of this address to call your attention on the advantages which may be expected from borrowing a sum on the credit of the property itself.

under the facility of a loan no hurry being to dispose of the lots since a possibility may be for the publick to erect houses for private accomodation which would be a measure but expedient and beneficial—it will become possible to appropriate a sum to each particular object to perform and to carry on a regularly and at a same time every of those object forwarding them yearly in proportion to the money allotted for them respectively

in that way every improvement may be easily completed and without being restrained by little saving consideration they may be carried through the whole city Indiscriminately aiding and assisting every private undertaking were a reciprocity of benefit may ensue.—a mode of process which I may venture to assert would in the end bring three to one for the money they liberally expended and which heighly repaying for a loan on what ever terms it might be obtained would by rising the reputation of the undertaking to a degree of splendor and greatness unprecedented contribute most ef-

fectually to the increase of population to the accrissment of comerce and would in a short time rise the City one of the first the world will contain.

it is in this manner and in this manner only I conceive the business may be conducted to a certainty of the attainment of that success. I wished to promot in the delination of a plan wholly new and which combined on a grand scale will require exertions above what is the idea of many but the which not being beyond your power to procur made me promise the securing of them, as I remain assured you will conceive it essential to pursue with dignity the operation of an undertaking of a magnitude so worthy of the concern of a grand empire in the compleat achievement of the which the Honor of this is become so eminently concern and over whose progress the eyes of every other nation envying the opportunity denyed them will stand judge.

I have the Honor to be with respect and submission,  
Your most humble obedient servant,

P. C. L'ENFANT.

Per

The President of the United States.

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## EARLY MAPS AND SURVEYORS OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

[Read before the Society, Feb. 18, 1895]

By John Stewart.

Washington City came into existence by an Act of Congress, begun and held at the City of New York, on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1790, entitled, "An

Act for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the Government of the United States," in which, among other things, it was enacted:

"That a district or territory not exceeding ten miles square, to be located, as hereafter directed, on the River Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and Connogocheque, be, and the same is hereby, accepted for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States." \* \* \*

"That the President of the United States be authorized to appoint, and by supplying vacancies happening from refusal to act, or other causes, to keep in appointment as long as may be necessary, three Commissioners, who, or any two of them, shall, under the direction of the President, survey, and by proper metes and bounds, define and limit, a district of territory under the limitations above mentioned. And the district so defined, limited, and located, shall be deemed the district accepted by this act for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States."

Under virtue of the above-recited Act of Congress, approved July 16, 1790, the President of the United States, by letters patent, bearing date the 22d day of January, 1791, appointed Thomas Johnson and Daniel Carroll, of Maryland, and David Stuart, of Virginia, Commissioners. In a letter by President Washington to Colonel William Dickens, of Georgetown, dated March 2, 1791, he states, "an eminent French military engineer starts for Georgetown to examine and survey the site of the Federal city."

The talented and memorable Major Peter Charles L'Enfant, formerly a French engineer officer, who had served honorably under General Washington during the Revolutionary War, was at this time established in a very profitable business as a civil engineer in the



city of New York. Messrs Andrew and Benjamin Ellicott and Isaac Roberdeau, as assistants, arrived at Georgetown on February 4, 1791. Their pay commenced on that day.

L'Enfant says, "That through President Washington's urgent desire to devote his entire energy to fix the site, prepare the plan, and undertake the engineering of the Federal City, he gave up his business, his fortune, in New York City, without a thought of compensation, owing to his confidence in the President." He arrived at Georgetown on March 9, 1791, and immediately set to work making a general survey of the territory and preparing a voluminous report to the Executive, in which he pointed out that "the water-side, from the mouth of the Eastern Branch at Carroll borough, as far up as Evans Point, a distance of above three miles, the frequent winding of the shore from many natural wet dock which, for not having everywhere a great depth of water, nevertheless could become very convenient for the establishing of naval store and for arsenals, the which, as well as warehouse for merchantmen, might safely be raised on the water edge without fear of impeding the prospect from on the Heigh flat behind- there were the level ground on the water and all round were it descend, but most particularly on that part terminating in a ridge to Jenkins' Hill, and running in a parallel with and at half mile off from the River Potowmack, separated by a low ground intersected with three grand streams. Many of the most desirable positions offer for to erect the publique edifices thereon. From these height every grand building would rear with a majestick aspect over the country all round and might be advantageously seen from twenty miles off, while contiguous to the first settlement of the city they would there stand to

ages in a center point to it, facing on the grandest prospect, of both of the branch of Potowmack with the town of Alexandry in front, seen in its fullest extent over many points of land projecting from the Mareland and Virginia shore in a manner as add much to the prospective at the end of which the cape of Great Hunting Creek appear directly were a corner stone (No. 1) of the Federal District is to be placed, and in the room of which a majestick Colum or a grand Peysamid being erected would produce the happiest effect and compleatly finish the landskape. These in every respect advantageously situated the Federal City would soon grew of itself and spread as the branches of a tre dos toward were they met with most nourishment. \* \* \* having a bridge laid over the Eastern branch some were above Evans pt. there the natural limit of the eastern branch may be extanded while in its western extrimity may be included Georgetown itself which being situated at the head of Grand navigation of the Potowmack should be favoured with same advantage of a better communication with the southern by having also a bridge erected over the Potowmack at the place of the two Sisters were nature would effectually favor the undertaking.

then between those two points begining the settlement of the Grand City on the bank of the eastern branch and promoting the first improvement all along of the Heigh flat as far as were it end on Jenkins' Hill would place the City Central to the ground left open to its agrandisement which most undoubtedly would be rapid toward both extremity, provided nevertheless that attention be paid immediately on laying the first out line of the establishment to open a direct and large avenue from the bridge on the Potowmack to that on

the eastern branch the which should be well level passing a cross Georgetown and over the most advantageous ground for prospect through the grand city, with a wide way paved for heavy carriage and walk, on each side planted with double rows of trees," drawing the President's attention to many other natural existing formations of land and water, requiring but little expense to make the site of a Federal City on the Potomac River, between the Eastern Branch and Georgetown, proportionate to the greatness of a city where the Capitol of a powerful Empire ought to exist.

On June 22, 1791, he stated to the Executive: "In framing the plan here annexed for the intended Federal City \* \* \* my whole attention was given to the contribution of the general distribution of the ground local, as to an object of the most immediate moment, and have in consequence to solicit your indulgence in submitting my ideas in an incomplete drawing, only correct as to the situation and distances of objects. \* \* \* I next made the distribution regular, with streets at right angles, north-south and east-west; but afterwards I opened others on various directions as avenues to and from every principle place, to which they will serve as does the main veins in the animal body to diffuse life through smaller vessels in quickening the active motion to the heart."

In this and in his first report he recommends as sites for the United States Capitol and for the President's Palace, the grounds whereon those buildings now stand. He submitted this report to the President at Georgetown.

On August 19, 1791, L'Enfant wrote the President, saying: "The highest of my ambition gratified in having met with your approbation in the project of the plan which I have now the honor of presenting to you,

altered agreeable to your directions." This was his second plan, and he prepared an exact copy of it on a larger scale, which was designated, "L'Enfant's Large Outline Plan (a) of the City." (See p. 53.) It was used by the surveyors in laying out the city, and from it was copied the plan from which the first sale of city lots was made, on the 17th, 18th and 19th of October, 1791. This copy (b) comprehended all the squares and numbered (a, p. 57) within K street on the north, F street on the south, 21st street on the west, 16th and 17th streets on the east, from Pennsylvania avenue. He employed Stephen Hallet, an architect in Philadelphia, (the first architect of the United States Capitol), to draught a copy of his said large plan, which, with an essay on the city prepared by himself, he was to have published in Paris, expecting large returns from its sale.

On September 9, 1791, the Commissioners wrote Major L'Enfant, stating: "We have agreed that the Federal District shall be called 'The Territory of Columbia,' and the Federal city 'The City of Washington.' The title of the map will therefore be, 'A Map of the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia.'

"We have also agreed the streets be named alphabetically one way and numerically the other, the former into north and south letters, the latter into east and west numbers from the Capitol. Mr Ellicott will soon furnish you the soundings of the waters, to be incerted in the map. If you have no contrary directions, we wish about 10,000 of the maps to be struck on the best terms and as soon as possible."

September 21, 1791, L'Enfant was requested to have sufficient clay for 3,000,000 brick taken out from the foundations of the Capitol and President's house.

September 24, 1791, L'Enfant was instructed to direct three hundred copies of his plan of the Federal City to be transmitted to such parts of the Northern States as he may think proper.

October 22, 1791, L'Enfant is requested to search along the lands near the Potomac river for three acres of land, well stored with free-stone, and to purchase the same for the United States. He accordingly selected and purchased Wiggington's Island, on Aquia Run, County of Stafford, Va., on December 2, 1791, which contains twelve acres, and is still Government property.

It was his second plan that President Washington laid before Congress on December 13, 1791. L'Enfant was instructed by the President to clear away all obstructions in the way of his surveying lines. Mr Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, commenced to build a house directly upon one of the principal lines, and L'Enfant notified the builder that such was the case, and intimated that should the house be built, he would order it taken down. The house was partly built, but L'Enfant kept his word, and did have it taken down on Tuesday, the 22d of November, 1791, and having done so without consulting the Board of Commissioners, they became so indignant and gave such great annoyance to the President on account of that action as to cause L'Enfant to sever his official connection with the city on March 6, 1792. L'Enfant withheld his plan until the President prevailed upon him to take it to the engravers, and to superintend the work of its engraving. Respecting the publication of this engraving, he says: "After I generously permitted the completing of the engraving and had lent manuscript drafts, as were said wanting for correction, those manuscripts were detained. Finding my name erased from the title of

the map at the moment of publication, and leaving stand on it that of my assistants, I refused the revisal of the proofs in printing." Here ended his actions in connection with the beautiful city of his superb design. Who can say that Major Peter Charles L'Enfant's propositions of 1791 for embellishing the City of Washington, D. C., within its original limits, have not been carried out in course down to and in the year of our Lord, 1898?

We are glad that though the mighty empire, which he delighted to mention, has refused to rest his bones in a respectable cemetery, and mark his grave with a decent head-stone, there is a nobler monument still expanding—the Capital of his said empire, that will be more lasting to his honor than one of any other construction.

At the time when L'Enfant withheld his plan, his former assistant, Mr Ellicott, went to Philadelphia, and, with the assistance of his two brothers, prepared another plan of the city from a copy he had of L'Enfant's. He wrote the Commissioners, February 23, 1792, saying: "Major L'Enfant refused us the use of the original plan; what his motives were, God knows. The plan which we have furnished, I believe, will be found to answer the ground better than the large one in the Major's hands." This plan of Ellicott's was given to Samuel Blodget, Jr., to have it engraved at the City of Boston, and it was engraved there by a Samuel Hill in 1792; a proof-sheet of it was sent to Secretary of State Jefferson at Philadelphia, who wrote to the Commissioners on July 11, 1792, saying: "I now send a proof-sheet of the plan of the town engraving at Boston. I observe the soundings of the creek and river are not in it. It would be well to know of Mr Ellicott whether they were on the original sent to Boston. If

not, you will probably think it desirable to insert in this proof-sheet and send it to Boston, addressed to Mr. Blodget, under whose care the engraving is going on." Mr. Ellicott, having admitted that he did not show the soundings upon his plan was directed to insert them upon the proof-sheet; but prior to returning the proof-sheet to Boston, the engraving was received by Mr. Jefferson, and his soundings were never inserted therein.

The explanatory reference on L'Enfant's 1792 Philadelphia engraving, in which Ellicott's name is given, was placed there by L'Enfant, who placed his own name in its legend, stating "By Peter Charles L'Enfant." By withholding the legend, and continuing the reference, assistant Ellicott has been honored at the expense of his superior, and confirming that honor by placing the same reference on his own Boston engraving.

The L'Enfant Philadelphia engraving was first sold at 4s. 8½d., and Ellicott's Boston engraving at 2s. 6d., showing which of the two was the better.

As many people believe, and as many affirm, that the city was originally surveyed and laid out from the 1792 Philadelphia engraving, I would say that said engraved map was only a guide or rule of action for laying off the city and to show the world how it was to be laid out, in avenues, streets and buildings, and that there existed a special large plan (b, p. 56) prepared on the same design and prior to that engraving, as already stated, and in proof thereof are the following references: March 14, 1792, Stephen Hallet prepared a reduction copy upon silk from L'Enfant's great plan. (a, p. 55.) Mr. Ellicott states on October 13, 1792, "Square No. 128 on original (b, p. 56) L'Enfant plan, is designated No. 166 on engraved plans now in

circulation, that square was divided (October 19, 1791) according to the number on Major L'Enfant's large plan." (a, p. 55.)

March 13, 1793, the Commissioners requested Mr. Ellicott to return "the plan of the outlines of the city." (a, p. 55.)

On April 9, 1793, they ordered that the "Outline plan to work by" be delivered in their office. It was delivered there by Mr. Ellicott on same date. (a, p. 55.) Mr. Ellicott says, in his letter dated June 17, 1793, "The plan from which we work"; and Isaac Briggs and Ben. Ellicott, in their letter dated September 20, 1793, say, "We can give the number of squares in the city from 'General Outline, or large Plan, from which we work.'" (a, p. 55.)

"Mr Andrew Ellicott having run a line from the Court-house, Alexandria, due southwest an half a mile, and thence southeast to Hunting Creek, to the beginning of the four lines of experiment." "The Commissioners, on April 15, 1791, attended by the surveyor and a large concourse of spectators at Jones' Point, and fixed a stone (No. 1, p. 51) at the same place, it being the beginning of the four lines of experiment." On June 6, 1792, Mr Ellicott was ordered to lay out the lines of the District of Columbia.

On January 1st, 1793, he submitted to the Commissioners "a report with his first map of the four lines of experiment, showing an half a mile on each side, including the district of territory, with a survey of the different waters within the territory."

The Commissioners sent a revised copy of this report and the plat to the President, who returned the plat for the purpose of having additions proposed by him shown thereon, and when so altered it was returned to the President, February 11, 1793.



Messrs Andrew, Joseph and Benjamin Ellicott and Isaac Briggs, all surveyors of Washington City, were laying off the permanent lines of the District of Columbia, and paid \$1,050.00 for that work on January 22, 1793.

Mr Andrew Ellicott, being L'Enfant's chief assistant, succeeded to the position of head of the surveying department immediately on L'Enfant's resignation; and when original proprietor, Davy Burns, designated him "the Surveyor-General, with a number of letters to his name," was a fully qualified surveyor, as is evident from L'Enfant's statement of his work as given on L'Enfant's engraved Philadelphia Plan of 1792, and from the other public surveys he had done in other parts of the United States. He had five assistant surveyors (two of them were his own brothers, Benjamin and Joseph Ellicott; the others were Isaac Briggs, George Fenwick, and James R. Dermott), with the necessary assistants for each surveyor. Of the surveyors named, it is of importance to introduce the last-named, James R. Dermott, who, prior to his becoming a city surveyor, was a professor of some institution of learning in the city of Alexandria, Va. He was highly recommended by one of the Commissioners, Dr. D. Stuart, and was appointed on March 24, 1792. Soon thereafter the Surveyor-General stated to the Commissioners that Dermott was the best and readiest calculator he had ever met. However, in the early fall of that same year he was sent by Andrew Ellicott in charge of a few colored men to cut down trees and brush on Pennsylvania avenue, and in a few days he was discharged. Dermott met Dr Stuart in Virginia shortly thereafter, to whom he said: "I have been discharged, and I am glad of it, for the reason of the imperfect surveying work now being done in Washington." The

doctor requested him to make that statement before the Board, but this he did not do until a second request had been made of him by the doctor, and then an investigation of the survey work was instituted. Several squares that had been returned were resurveyed, and none of them were found correct, and the Commissioners say, "Some squares were returned that never were measured." For said reasons, Mr Ellicott, with all his assistants, was discharged on March 12, 1793.

On April 9, 1793, the Commissioners prepared new rules for the Surveying Department, by which each surveyor was to delineate on a slip of paper each separate square surveyed by him, to state thereon the name of each street fronting that square, and to enter the length of each side of that square in lineal feet and fractions of inches, with date and his signature. These attested slips were designated "surveyors' returns." The city was to be surveyed in sections varying in size, as the Commissioners might order from time to time, those so surveyed embracing one hundred squares in some cases and two hundred and three hundred in others. The "returns" of these sections were drawn on "section" sheets of paper, on the scale of 200 feet to an inch, and, together with the small slips or "surveyors' returns," were sent to the office of the Commissioners, where we again find Professor Dermott, who would from the "surveyors' returns" prepare another section plan, and this he would compare with the section plan received from the field. If he discovered any difference between the two he would report it to the Commissioners; and when correct or corrected, his was to become a large plat, which was to be considered as a record. (That plan is on file in City Surveyor's Office.) He also divided each square into lots on a sheet of foolscap paper, on a scale of 40 feet to an inch; these were

signed by the Commissioners and the original proprietors, and designated "divisions of squares;" each standard lot was to contain 5,265 square feet, and he was to keep in methodical order all calculations of lots. The surveying formerly done was resurveyed, so that the surveying proper commenced April 9, 1793.

Mr Andrew Ellicott was finally discharged on July 19, 1793, having acted for only three months and ten days at the final resurvey of the city. He was succeeded on that date by Isaac Briggs and Benjamin and Joseph Ellicott, who, as the Commissioners aver, continued, as Mr Andrew Ellicott had previously done, charging all their own mistakes to Professor Dermott's gross ignorance and wickedness, and because the Commissioners did not discharge Dermott they said that he had stolen a copy of L'Enfant's map, and, without the Commissioners' knowledge, advertised in a newspaper, offering \$5.00 to stop the thief, and for the apprehension of Dermott. The plan referred to being on file during this time in the office of the Commissioners, they discharged Mr Briggs on November 2, 1793, and also Benjamin and Joseph Ellicott on January 28, 1794.

On December 17, 1793, the Commissioners wrote, in reply to Mr Andrew Ellicott, stating, "We have had no intercourse with the President or Mr Jefferson on the Plate or Map of the Territory, and decline going into that business with which we have nothing to do."

On August 30, 1792, the Commissioners directed Surveyor George Fenwick to set up stones at certain distances in the north and south and east and west lines, from which the city was laid out. On March 25, 1794, they also requested the said Mr Fenwick to have a large stone lettered "The beginning of the Territory of Columbia," prepared and fixed at the beginning of the

territory, in the presence of some of the gentlemen who were present at the fixing of the small stone now there. (No. 1, p. 51—p. 57.)

Surveyor Thomas Freeman succeeded Benjamin and Joseph Ellicott on March 25, 1794. He reported, June 21, 1794, having carefully adjusted the center of North and South Capitol streets by planting four cut stones in that line, and that he had planted a large stone at Jones' Point in the presence of two gentlemen (Col. Marsteller and one other), who were present at the planting of a small temporary boundary in the same place. This large stone had cut on it, "The beginning of the Territory of Columbia," showing that the present stone, lettered as stated, is not the original stone placed there on April 15, 1791.

Freeman reported on July 4, 1795, that the surveying of the city had been completed on the 25th of the preceding month (June 25, 1795), and that he had fixed at Rock Creek, in the road leading from Georgetown to Bladensburg, where a small temporary boundary stood, a large stone lettered, "First Boundary of the City of Washington." "And from thence run a street 80 feet wide, which bounds the city to the second boundary; the north side thereof runs in the center of the road; this street I produced to the third boundary, where it falls into Fifteenth street east, and with part of Fifteenth and C streets north, completes a street which bounds the city from Rock Creek to the Eastern Branch; the north side of the boundary stones stand in the north line of the street, so that these stones stand in the city." \* \* \*

On June 15, 1795, the Commissioners "ordered James R. Dermott to prepare a plat of the city, with every public appropriation plainly and distinctly delineated, together with the appropriation now made by the

Board for the National University and Mint." This is the plan which was to be annexed to President Washington's official instrument, dated March 2, 1797, and was afterward so annexed by President John Adams, on July 23, 1798. It was designated by the Commissioners as the "Appropriation Map." This map shows 132 more building squares in the city than either L'Enfant's or Ellicott's engraved maps. Of this map Commissioners Scott, Thornton and White say to the President of the United States, "The Dermott map is the evidence of public property in the city." Many experts of the present day affirmed that it was prepared by Ellicott, until I produced the evidence given on the new issue of that map.

On the completion of the city surveying, June 25, 1795, Surveyor Thomas Freeman was required to take the levels of the city. He completed that work on section plans copied from Dermott's large 1793-5 map, and resigned office July 7, 1796.

On December 1, 1796, President Washington wrote the Commissioners: "A university was never contemplated by Major L'Enfant in the plan of the city, which was laid before Congress; it had its rise from another source. This plan you shall receive by the first safe hand who may be going to the Federal City. By it you may discover (tho. almost obliterated) the directions given to the engravers by Mr. Jefferson with a pencil, what parts to omit." On December 5, 1796, the Commissioners, replying to the President, say: "We have received L'Enfant's plan of the city." There are several recorded references to this plan as being on file in the Commissioners' office at different times down to recent years. I found it there in 1873, and it is still there in 1898, and is now 107 years old.

Freeman was succeeded by Nicholas King on September 21, 1796, who prepared a "large map of Water street," extending from Rock Creek eastward to appropriation No. 13, where the present jail stands. That map he lodged in the office of the Commissioners on March 8, 1797. He resigned office in favor of his father, Robert King, Sr., on September 12, 1797, who was appointed on the same day.

James Reed Dermott, whose actions were highly approved of by all the Commissioners for six years of active service in connection with surveying and draughting the plats of the city, quitted the City Surveyor's office January 2, 1798. When Robert King, Sr., became the only existing City Surveyor, many houses were being built in different parts of the city, causing the duties of the office to be more than Mr. King could properly manage. He used that as his reason for asking the Commissioners to appoint his son Robert as assistant surveyor. He was appointed as such on July 1, 1800. Robert, Jr., prepared a map of the section of ground fronting the present State Department and Seventeenth street, showing the lot that was to be conveyed to the Queen of Portugal; it is signed "R King," and dated August, 1798. This plan is in the office of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association of this city.

The Commissioners state in their Journal of Proceedings, under date of May 4, 1802: "Report received from Robert King with an altered map of the city in conformity to the directions of the Board, and according to the large map of Water street." Both Robert King, Sr., and Jr., resigned office August 13, 1802. Nicholas King, the other son of Robert King, Sr., was appointed a second time as City Surveyor, about June 1, 1803. In the office of Public Buildings and Grounds there is a large portfolio, comprising sixteen sheets, the legend

of which is: "The King plats of the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia," and upon its first page or sheet is: "Plan of the City of Washington, laid down agreeably to the Surveyors' Returns, by Nicholas King, S. C. W., 1803." I am obliged to say that Nicholas King could not prepare such a portfolio during the time he was in office, in the year 1803. There are upon record no instructions to him to prepare such a map. I have identified the draughting of it as the work of Robert King, Jr., and said on the witness stand that I believed it was the map received by the Commissioners from Robert King on May 4, 1802.

A few of the leveling sections of the city bear the name of Nicholas King, but the sections themselves were prepared in 1795-6 by Thomas Freeman, who was in office prior to Nicholas King, who died in office on May 12, 1812, and was succeeded by his brother, Robert, on May 21, 1812, who was in office till June 1, 1821.

Having failed to recover the Boston plate, and being unable to procure a printed copy of it, I obtained the loan of one of its original prints, and had it photographed, on which, as stated, "there are no soundings shown upon it," and furthermore it is, as said of it by Mr. Ellicott, "smaller than L'Enfant's."

The Philadelphia plate has the soundings upon it, and it is deposited at the United States Coast Survey Office.

The next engraved map of the city is designated the "Robert King Map of the City of Washington." It has upon it the following legend: "A map of the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, established as the permanent Seat of Government of the United States of America. Taken from actual survey, as laid out on the ground. By Robert King, Surveyor of the

City of Washington. Entered according to act of Congress. Engraved by C. Schwarz, Washn."

The earliest reference to this map that I have yet seen is the statement that a package numbered four, containing a copy of it, was placed in the cavity of the foundation corner stone of the City Hall, on August 22, 1820.

The next engraved map of the city is DeKraft's, which is dated 1833. And the next is a printed map of the District of Columbia, by Wm. Eliot, dated 1837.

In reference to the next I quote from the Congressional Globe, Vol. 24, Part 2, 1st Sess., 32d Cong., 1851-2, folio 1362:

"Mr Douglas submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to:

*"Resolved,* That the Secretary cause the maps of the District of Columbia and City of Washington, and the plats of the squares and lots in the city of Washington, heretofore printed under an order of the Senate, to be bound."

On perusal of this resolution, and having seen the said bound document, a desire became urgent to find where were the engraved copper plates used in printing it. After a continuous searching for two years I was rewarded with success and deposited them in the U. S. Coast Survey Office. The copper plate used in printing Mr Ellicott's Boston plan of the City of Washington appearing in said document, and now in the Coast and Geodetic Survey Office, is an imperfect reproduction of the original plate.

The large plans of Water street, in twelve sheets, prepared by Nicholas King in 1797, being the best plans for defining Water street, were, with many other city plans, taken out of the Commissioners' office before I became custodian there. These large plans were



required for important Government purposes, but they could not be produced; ultimately I succeeded in obtaining them from a gentleman who took them out of the office twenty-six years prior to returning them.

There is also a lithographed map of the city; its legend is: "Map of the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, showing the lines of the various Properties at the Division with the Original Proprietors in 1792. Copyrighted by James M. Stewart, Washington, D. C., 1884." Many other maps might be introduced, but, as Mr Marcus Baker has given such a full list of them in a previous paper, I deem those alone mentioned will suffice for the present.

I desire to state that there is one record book missing, which I am, as yet, unable to recover, and I take the liberty of referring to it in your presence, in the hope that by your valuable assistance it may be obtained and returned to where it rightly belongs. It is the second volume of the Commissioners' daily proceedings, containing accounts of their actions from August 31, 1795, to October 24, 1796, in which the minutes of the meetings of the Commissioners are regularly entered and signed by them, "Gustavus Scott, William Thornton, and Alexander White, Commissioners."

The number of various old section plans of Washington City now in existence are:

Eleven in office of Commissioner of Public Buildings.

Eleven in office of the Oldest Inhabitants of the City.

Thirty-three in office of the City Surveyor.

Fifty-one in the Peter Force Collection in the U. S. Congressional Library.

Making in all 106.

I desire to correct some imperfect statements lately appearing in public print, and for that reason I state, first, that a Mr William Elliott, a civil engineer, emi-

grated from England in the year 1810 to the city of Washington, where he became known as a celebrated teacher of algebra and mathematics. He was appointed to a position in the Pension Office of the War Department, and being commissioned by the President of the United States to fix the longitude of the Capitol from Greenwich, England, on April 10, 1821, he resigned his position in the Pension Office on the 30th of that month, and completed his instrumental Celestial observations for the longitude on February 21, 1822. (Its calculations were made by Wm. Lambert.) He built a frame house for a private observatory at the rear of his dwelling in March, 1824,\* and on April 2, 1824, he was engaged running a meridian line to the north of his observatory. He was appointed surveyor of the city of Washington in 1832, and continued in that office till his death in 1837.

The first United States Naval Observatory was brought into existence chiefly by the efforts of the said Mr William Elliott. Lieut. L. M. Goldsborough, U. S. N., was the first officer who was placed in charge of that office in the Navy Department, in the year 1830. Lieut. Goldsborough was succeeded in that year by Lieut. Wilkes, U. S. N., who obtained permission from the Naval Commissioners to remove the Observatory office to a small frame building on a high elevation that was located at the rear of Mr William Elliott's residence, No. 222 North Capitol street, situated on the west side between B and C streets, and N. 5 degrees 0 minutes W., 1,200 feet (nearly) from the center of the Capitol, being the same observatory as was built by Mr Ellicott in March, 1824.

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\* From his notes, in possession of his granddaughter, Miss E. Elliott, 216 North Capitol St.

Lieut. Wilkes was succeeded by Lieut. James M. Gilliss, U. S. N., in the year 1838, and continued in charge of the observatory till 1842. In April, 1841, he erected a massy obelisk of sandstone, 18 feet high and 14 inches square at the top, for a meridian mark, from the Observatory on Capitol Hill. It was located on the Beall property, 74 feet (nearly) west of the line of the west side of North Capitol street, and 35 feet (nearly) south of the line of the south side of North R street. It was originally designated the "Gillis Obelisk." Its sandstone material is now lying on the ground around its former position.\*

Second—"The first Meridian of the United States" intersects the center of the north and south basement doors of the President's house, as stated in Nicholas King's report, dated October 15, 1804, which is merely a report prepared by him at the date it bears, describing how the said meridian was established on September 20, 1793. He distinctly states in his said report, "In running the meridian line and fixing the several points on that line with temporary posts driven in the ground, I acted only in the capacity of assistant, conforming entirely to the instructions of Mr Briggs." \* \* \* This Mr Briggs became one of the chief surveyors of the city, July 19, 1793, and was discharged November 2, 1793.

In December, 1804, Nicholas King was the only surveyor of the city, and adds the confirmation, "It devolves on me to describe the mode pursued in ascertaining the line, the required intersections and replacing the temporary posts set in the ground with stone and pier." Doubtless for the purpose stated in his sec-

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\* I am indebted to the courtesy of Professor Wm. Harkness, U. S. N., Director of the U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., for the above statement.

ond endorsement, i. e., "To be filed in the office of state as a record of the demarkation of the first Meridian of the United States, October 15, 1804." A careful perusal of the report shows that it refers to two different periods of time.

John Lenthall, a superintendent under Latrobe at the United States Capitol, attests the account, \$171.21½, for the materials and building the meridian pier or Jefferson obelisk, dated December 18, 1804.

The pier was frequently used by surveyors as a bench-mark, and as a guy-post for barges and other boats; and, not being kept in repair, soon became demolished. Finding its stone scattered around in 1872, when extending Executive avenue past that old landmark, not only the scattered stones, but a considerable part of its upper foundation was used in the formation of that avenue bed. The old surface of the ground was resurfaced to the depth of several feet, and the ground extended two hundred feet nearly into what was formerly part of Goose Creek, thereby greatly altering the old ground surface. Two or more engineers tried to recover the foundation of the pier at different times about ten years since. The obelisk erected by N. King southwest of the National Monument, on the meridian west from the south end of the Capitol, was removed in 1888 to the property yard of Public Buildings and Grounds, leaving nothing to mark its original position.

And third—October 9, 1889, I was instructed to recover the foundation of the said pier, and did so in the following manner: Running a line due south by the center of the Executive Mansion, by that of Virginia avenue, from Rock Creek, to intersection of my first line, point No. 1; by that of Virginia avenue, from Eastern Branch to point No. 1; by that of East Capitol

street to point No. 1; and by that of Louisiana avenue to point No. 1; all of the said lines intersecting each other very nearly, I fixed that point and excavated the ground about a foot clear of the peg on its western side, to the depth of 6 feet 6 inches, and struck the west side of the old foundation. I then extended the said lines and fixed them 20 feet 0 inches on each side of peg No. 1; then excavated a square of eight feet and found point No. 1 was exactly perpendicular over the center of the foundation. Though using the courses mentioned by Nicholas King, I did not know of the existence of his report till I accidentally found it in the State Department, January 5, 1891. The pit was left open for six weeks, so that all who wished might see for themselves. During that time a granite block 3 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 0 inches by 2 feet 0 inches, weighing 2,132 pounds, nearly, was prepared; the old foundation was taken out, and under it a lady's thimble was found. I have not seen anything to confirm the statement that "it was placed there by Mrs. Jefferson and was the reason for designating the obelisk the Jefferson Pier." A cement concrete foundation was laid for the stone, on which it was set, standing  $22\frac{1}{2}$  inches above ground, having on its west face the following inscription: "Position of Meridian Post, erected September 20, 1793, and Position of the Jefferson Stone Pier, erected December 18, 1804; and Recovered and Re-erected, December 1, 1889." Just as it was set in position, and before the ground was levelled around it, I received orders to lower it as at present, which accounts for no inscription being visible above ground.

Finally—I would explain how I came to have the opportunity to know what is upon record in reference to early maps and surveyors of the city, and say that when placed in charge of the office of Commissioners

of Public Buildings, and all documents therein, in 1876, my instructions were to peruse carefully all the books and other documents placed under my care, and to familiarize myself with their contents. The Attorney-General of the United States sent me a letter, dated December 31, 1886, directing me to assist the Attorney of the District of Columbia in preparing evidences of the case, "The United States vs. F. M. Morris et al.", with whom, and at which, I have been engaged down to 1896, giving required evidences from the said records; their contents were fresh in my memory at the time I was asked to prepare this paper (except the few references to my own actions in connection with surveying made in this city). All the other references to matters and persons were culled from the statements on file in this office (though by no means exhausted), purposely passing over some statements to avoid anything which might appear dishonorable in any person referred to.

## THE L'ENFANT MEMORIALS.

The originals of these memorials are the property of **Mr Henry A. Willard** of this city, who secured them by purchase at the sale of the collection of autographs of the late Ben Perly Poore. Mr Willard has kindly permitted them to be copied for publication in this volume of the transactions of this society. Their verification seems to be conclusively established. All of them are marked by the lines of folding and have the endorsement of official papers. To three of the documents the signature of L'Enfant is affixed, and two are in his handwriting. The memorial dated Philadelphia, August 30th, 1800, and addressed "To the Commissioners of the City of Washington," is not in his handwriting and is without his signature, but it contains references to others to which his signature is affixed, one of which is in his handwriting. The memorial, dated Philadelphia, December 7, 1800, addressed "To the Honorable the Senate and the Honorable the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled," and "paper referred to per memorial December 7th," and endorsed No. 1, and the "Statement of the case of L'Enfant, December 11th, 1800," are in his handwriting and bear his signature.

These facts and circumstances satisfy the Committee on Publication of the authenticity of the memorials and accompanying papers, and justify their publication as verified copies of the originals in possession of **Mr. Willard**:

**To the Commissioners of the City of Washington**

PHILADELPHIA *August 30th 1800*

**A concurrence of disastrous events rendering my po-**

sition so difficult as to be no longer possible to withstand unless speedily relief be obtained by collecting what yet remains my due: I trust the simple mention of the case will justify an application to your Board and with Instance on the Subject of my late Concern in the affairs of the City of Washington.—

I confided in the wisdom and honor of him whose patriotic views in giving birth to the Federal Establishment he knew my Zeal & Exertions were great to have forwarded, but at the present juncture, and since left with you Gentlemen to mourn the departed American Chief, thus at once missing the friend, and principal dependency in my cause, and of course became censurable for too great a confidence and liberality it will not be expected I can any longer forbear claiming Redress for Injury when the feeling is rendered so acute and the Consequences distressing.

I indeed indulged the hope that—though an ill Star would have me be driven from the grand Concern in the affair of the City of Washington too soon for the merit of my labour there having been made perceptible to vulgar Senses—still the all comprehensive mind of its founder having adopted my Ideas and esteemed in the developement of early attempts the promise of complete success would at this moment have acknowledged but the attainment (be it of only the leading object) for all the changes of Agency that have been does not the less leave the public Indebted to me.—

In the first place he knew, that—to my exertions your Commission owed the acquisition of means over commensurate with the Work to have supplied and by an oeconomy of which (on principles as were suggested) the City was at the end made a rich Corporation—he knew that—I derived no profit by the transaction while the immediate result to others has been a great



Increase of their wealth from rise of property over a vast extent of territory, and if this Increase has not continued in a progressive ratio—if the business has proved more Complex than expected—if the progress has not been so rapid nor so brilliant and the resources were soon done away, reflection could not fail but convince him how these disappointments were invited by a departure from my principle and particularly for having given way to the seduction of that active Agency of all evil, Speculation,—he knew my early fear of the result when seeing the Interest that had already worked to disable your Commission of its means at the first stirred up disturbance of my operations combining with Jealousy to render loud the cry against keeping me powerful in the direction.—he had seen how suddenly after my retreat the City property being depreciated to an excessive low rate actual Bankrupts, Land and Stock Jobbers became the forestallers of the major portion and well approved and safe mode of accelerating public Improvements being renounced the growth of the City left a chance of Caprice was retarded through grumbling Interest and a Swindling Scheme of Lottery and to these facts the repeated call by your Commission made upon Government for assistance concurring in proof of the promised by Speculation Contract, he surely must have allowed but the apprehension of the consequences of which I had warned were not chimerical when besides it is seen that with all the product from Sale of House Lots and the intermissive Supply obtained it has not in seven years lapse enabled the Completion of even one half of the main Edifices.—

The Remark here reminding of the promise upon which I engaged in the planning of the Federal Seat, of the Subsequent agreement with your Commission and how ungraciously when a thorough understanding of

my plan being presumed and the execution thought facile, these were deceived through underhand measures which in the origin recognised inconsistent being in the proposal to me also Insulting Compelled my resignation. were I now to particularise grievances—that of the breach of the engagement to me respecting those edifices doubtless would be ranked high for having destroyed an essential part of the combined division of the City and thereupon if it were asked whence arose the disagreement so destructive of mine and the general Interest—recollecting how some of the esteemed friends of the enterprize in acknowledging the superiority of my Scheme at the same time confessed a regret at my standing so conspicuously the Agent of its success, it would easily be explained how the illiberal Sentiment rallying round all the inimical and the speculative Emulated the working to detach me from the business and to strip me also of the fame as has become manifest.—

1st. From the ascendancy of those friends and period at which exercised, persuading upon the high authority by whom I acted the discontinuance of accustomed familiar and direct communication with me on the subject of the City affairs whence followed an unshakened disturbancy of the best approved of my measures and abuse consequent also to your Commission refusal of explaining the object and denial of redress of private injury done by the mistake.

2ndly. From the manner my right as author, to the general Map of the City was nullified, first inducing my consent to an essay engraving, and next hindering it by taking the principal hand away from the work and secretly having had a number of Copies drawn of that Map for private gratification and such as also were seen in the Senate and in the House of Representatives

wherein they had been hastened through opposition to the promised honors of myself presenting those bodies with the Original.

3rdly. From the deception of employing near me of a disguised personage who rendering himself serviceable gained free access to all my papers and so honorably acquitted of his Secret Commission gathering all by transcription and chalk out of Manuscripts and Drawings as to have at the opportune moment secured all that could serve to others to reap reputation and profit from my labours.

4th. From the Invitation given to a particular Individual, a copiest of my own plan, bringing him forward as original proprietor, by which was seen superceding me in the direction of the Capitol Edifice one of repute for having betrayed a trust deserting his duty to me on an occasion before and to the utter disappointment of a public object.

5thly. From the incorrect representation of my disposition when saying that I declined acting under your Commission--whereas well avered that no terms ever were offered to me on wch to have obtained my sentiments and that I myself made advances which remained unanswered proposing a mode of adjusting different and for the organization of the business, for the Security of my Agency in wch I simply wished the agreement mutually binding to respect and observance, a precaution well justified from prior violation.

6thly. From the Conduct of one highly trusted but on whose dependency on particular patronage made him connive with all the inimical and Contentions besides when free from my Control his deviating from the agreed with me in the execution of my plan and injuriously too to all property by having rendered num-

bers of it incapable of improvement wch by my combination were made the most advantageous.

7thly. From the assumption altogether of the property of my plan, again secretly engraving, wch engraving incorrect in part being given for guide of operations has been misleading all succeeding Surveyors whose innocent Errors for want of knowledge of my method *of offset of lines where angles fall under a certain degree*, necessarily must have atchieved equal mischief as where the mistake has been malicious.

8th. From the tricking proceeding on my discovering of the above when after I generously permitted the completing of the engraving and had even lent manuscripts drafts as were said wanting for correction—those manuscripts were detained and I refused the revision of the proofs in printing.

9thly. From me finding my name erased from the title of the Map at the moment of publication and leaving stand on one of my Assistants,—a proceeding too plainly descreying by what Mind dictated, for need being of remark upon as besides the petty policy proved itself also by the careful omission of my name in all subsequent publications pamphleting and other more unstable accounts of the City Establishment.

10thly. From the forcible Seizure of particular drafts manuscripts in deposit and of other abstracts papers and effects likewise Stealhed away from my Agents and out of my own quarters when in my absence the disturbances consequent to the combined arrest and false Imprisonment of that Agent laid all open to plunder, and by which I was bereaved of the possibility of effecting an intended publication of the City Plan in my own name.

11th. From the hearty and pressant manner of a tender of a little Money expressedly as acquit of all

obligations the rejection of which commended by feeling of a better due was no less determined by discovery at the very time of the abusive dealing as stated No. 3, 8, 9 and 10

12thly. From the extention of the wrong in having contemptuously of the assurance given me in primary instances but the publication of my plan was meant to be limited multiplied the emission in rapid succession to each other, and disposed of the prints not merely through the United States but over all Country beyond Sea thus spreading the fame of the enterprize robbing me of the merit and of my fortune by making the great proceed the enrichment of them who have no title to it except it be as expert Agents of Villainy.

If pausing here and to shorten the disgraceful Catalogue the question were to turn upon what has been my own conduct—I conscious of no wrong at my hand done would simply reply but my endeavours were uniformly to the purpose of the enterprize, and the System of my Process likewise the best calculated (known of) to have within the appointed term raised the City a fit Capital for this vast growing Empire and capable of receiving the Government—

Further---I would give to consider--that the Invitation to me to the Potowmack was in words as follow viz--To undertake there the execution of *the President's intentions*—that next his Instructions came *through the Secretary of State* placing me Independent [which Instruction it will not be unimportant to notice had teither through inadvertency or for s<sup>ome</sup> purpose) made my position at the first instance most perplexing and delicate]—I would give to consider that the apprehension of the mischief attendant to all disjoint or jealous directions made me the first Solicitous of a proper Union of agency, and that it was in testimonial of con-

cordant disposition and to determine my undertaking the plan of the City that I was assured of the direction of the two main Edifices the Site and Configuration of which constituted essentially the base of its divisions—I would give to consider—that being agreed my agency should be primary over all employed at the work of the City, and that work all over to have been conformable to the Plan—for all what I could do afterward inviting your Commission at its part [to provide and organize all the Branches of Administration] it having slighted the call and disclaimed owing an immediate attendance questioning whether the foundation of a new City had at all been the intention of its appointment the Consequence was that much of what ought to have been its care necessarily devolved on me to perform under the particular confidential Instruction of the President. I lastly would give to consider that—thus eventually made to act a principal part in transactions of first Interest to the Federal Establishment (otherwise foreign to my agency) successful and approved in every Step and proposal made by me, I on the adoption of the grand Idea of the plan having been enjoined a prompt execution conformably to—the Scruple then with your Commission preventing an active co-operation, it became incumbent on me resolutely to endeavor those things of which it would not make a particular business and when necessitated to a disagreeable exertion of authority to trust on, and avail of, the support afforded me as in few instances I did cautioning the delinquents and pursuing the right course of my operations.

To contrast my proceeding with the treatment which I met in return—it also would be seen that the greater the machination to frustrate my labours, the more regardless of personal consequences, I exerted abilities

advancing all matters of Import to the National object abetting no party meaning the advantage of all and that—if my occasional absence (necessitated by variety of distant avocations) was opportunate to disturbances and arrest of my measures, these disturbances and arrest having constantly subsided and been receded from as I drew near again to the place—all can only be proofs additional but every of my directions must have been considerate, Judicious, Proper, and not as some would have had it believed running Counter to regulation and Convention with them from whom I derived the power—it would be seen that notwithstanding the discouragement also of inconsiderate hurrying on of most intricate operations, of the untimely call of marking out Lots for Sale and other similar indiscreet orders which besides the uselessness of were effectually given more to perform than by human power could have been devoured to the business made me cheerfully endeavour the utmost, overlook all Inconveniences repressing the Sentiment of the Injury to me Intent and to do Justice to every call commit my health by the practice of passing from excessive hard days labour to the no less toilsome of long and whole set up nights destitute of the comforts and means of exigency to such an undertaking and in a clime the like.

Thus it would be seen that left alone and having had to conquer the prepossession of people the primary affected by the operation of my plan, actively subduing difficulties and under a surcharge of care the mind engaged in the framing of a plan novel, extensive and varied in its ramifications, my agency extending also to ministration relative to Concessions of territory (that which I gained to the public being above three fourths over than the first sought after besides other detached

acquisitions of as much moment and advantage) the entire Scheme of the Federal Establishment was secured, most eminently to my perseverance in the business till the main bases of the plan were immutably fixed and a portion of the whole of the division and Improvements so began as needed for a regulation to the end.—

By so liberally facilitating the execution of the plan Independent of me being visible I was diminishing my own Consequence in the Concern with your Commission—I knowing of no new Legislative act to have Rendered the continuance of my Agency in union with your Commission more Incompatible in 1792 than had been from 1790—here may be remarked the ungratefulness of the management at issue being then when all matters were by one set in a good way that the cry against my so continuing began to be heard and that in unison, those long born vexations (before cautiously mitigated), were boldly redoubled and with so insufferable unprecedented Indignities that no longer abiding to compact the transaction as also as in the foregoing numbered, shewed clearly the Mastery of an inimical envious Genius over both your Commission and the chief on whom depended the reorganization of the directive whom by preventing them the consideration of my proposals for—at last left nothing honorable for me to have done but the resignation which followed.

Resolving on the resignation, the Contrast again of my Conduct would Shew others ruled by petty policy against the better knowledge of things converting the reasons of my abandonment as best could sooth up the concerned in the event to a passive endurance of this mischief—biassing the public in belief to me injurious by whispering round but I failed in the respect due to the president of the United States and wished to have placed myself above your Commission, the in-



genuity of which Story helped first in dissuading the Citizens of Washington from remonstrating on the business by address as they intended to the President an act which would have been a manifest of the esteem which I left being me, too clashing with the purposes of blotting all traces of my agency for admitting doubly handling in order also of precluding the better disposition of the chief and create distrust in me mistating to him my Sentiments, and to me representing him ill inclined thus casting the odium of particular doings on sides rendered of difficult access, were tricks ably managed but which for all that failed in the intent of exciting me through mistaken anger to uncivil demeanour toward any.—it was seen to the contrary that—not only due respect to Office but right esteem of person all along actuated me, and so much so that at the moment previous to my resigning (and against the advice of all that surrounded me) I gave fresh proofs of to the President of the United States—addressing this first Patron of the Federal Enterprize with the precise of my Ideas and intentions of conducting it—loyally giving into his honor my Schemes to enable your Commission the proper prosecution of the work began advising such ways and means as I knew were attainable and warranted the most safe and Expediental—after which when the whole business with me was closed, manifesting none but my anxiety still for the good of the City—feeling strong in the Integrity and honor of my past Services against the Shafts of speculative Villains contemptuous of them all, I simply invited attention on the singular doing respecting the publishing of the City Plan as Explained Nos. 7, 8 and 9 and withdrew myself, with the comfort of assurances on that occasion renewed to me, in the name of the President by his own Secretary, that nothing in the busi-

ness had been but upon the whole entitled me to praise and Insured me the continuance of his particular Esteem and favor—the sense of mentioning which warranted me the sincerity of.—

Having yielded in this honorable manner to the Jealousies of the same which the complete raising of the City to a Splendour and greatness worthy of its name must have acquired.—were it necessary more to illustrate the merit of the Sacrifice I could for the Satisfaction of those whose estimation of a concern may chiefly attach to the weight of base Coin from which to deduce profit or loss—produce data from which to appreciate the loss to my fortune consequent also to the failing of the promise upon wch I engaged in the planing of the City of Washington

Giving to compare my actual distressed Condition with the affluent circumstances of, in 1790.—however may be said of the disastrous events Surveyed in Europe and of the robberies which I in the interim experienced on other hands of my saving here having contributed a share of the reduction—it would be easily demonstrable but the Invitation to the Potomack and subsequent engagement there were ye primary causes by necessarily having diverted my attention from the turning of my family affairs in Europe and also—that having forced my removal from a place (New York) where I stood at the time able of commanding whatever business I liked, the chances all were missed there by which I might have retrieved from difficulties—as what I elsewhere since I endeavoured proved unavailable or rather added to—owing also to tricking not altogether foreign to what I experienced in the Federal Enterprize—obvious therefore but the Inducement for hazarding my all in that Enterprize must have been the contemplation of a full compensa-

tion, here leaving a part what is claimed by the circumstances of loss and expence of the removal as necessitated,—if only inquiring into the advantages promised by, may be set down that.

1st. Of a Salary to my Agency commensurate with the magnitude and importance of the Object and of the Affairs managed.—

2ndly. Of payment for the delineation of the City Plan on an estimation expected such as the Sentiment of a work of genius alone alone can suggest and—differencing the production of the artist from that of the mere artisan or virtuoso, making also the price comport with the benefit in the end to result to the Nation.

3rdly. Of the proceed from the printing of the City Plan or an equivalent for being taken away the property thereof.—

4th. Of the great additional perquisite necessarily to have devolved to me from the agency.—

What those perquisites would have come to—this would be well deducible from observing that on the adoption of my plan, proposals already from Particular Companies placed under my immediate agency the erecting of Houses to the amount of \$1,000,000 only for a first operation meant to have been extended to upward double the Sum and for my trouble in directing which besides what would have come from an Infinitude of other detached fabricks, very liberal offers had been made and such as (exclusively of the right on public account) had procured me a clear gain of \$50,000 on first start of the business and upon failure of which brought on as has been the Compensation due by Government follow from all such Concerns having been made the Consideration in the planning of the City—the object of the first authorization of my Steps enticing those private ventures having been principally

the obtaining from the ventures themselves a loan of Money for the public work the carrying on of which they considering of essential mutual safety in the Enterprize made the loan be agreed with them for, at a moderate rate of 5 pct. and to an amount at once equal to the computed expences of five years of all projected operations—by which mean the grand machinery of my plan was to have been set in motion raising, as if it had been magically a ready built City out of the Earth, thereby to have secured at all chances the most of the looked for, by the Shares of property whilst it had enabled the quiet prosecution of the political object saving the expences to the Nation since out of the Lots not built on when the loan reimbursement once effected would have remained a surplusage of great means and Income to the City itself.

Whether the measure mutually failed from having been kept back waiting my going out of the agency—or whether it was dissuaded from by alluring Interest such as I wished to have restrained—being only reverting to the principle of the negociation that I bring the disappointment up to the list of Services left unrequited—reflection must easily satisfy how the prospect in such an agency and the being hurrying on to a beginning of the Enterprize at the very time of the breaking out of the Revolution in my native Country made me lose the hearing of its Summons and taking away from me the leisure to have saved property revertible to me there, caused me the loss—a loss since the event of which I could only be heartened against the fear of want here by reckoning upon a great due (at least of gratitude) for a long series of Services, mostly gratuitous and which for having in a succession of above 22 Years, gained me the esteem, and I may say the confidence, of the great late American Chief

were not a little encreasing my Security in the concern taken at his Invitation, in the federal business my expectation from which as expressed cannot but be still as sanguine as it was at the moment of the adoption of my plan, or more over I would give to consider that my belief in a full acquiescence to the terms and manner of the provisions negotiated as above stated was consequent to my having seen every other interfering proposal, to mine dismissed and one particularly noticeable for having come from *the Secretary of the Treasury* A: Hamilton himself which it is observable if it had prevailed still would have placed me within a Sphere of larger perspective than what I otherwise embraced—Speaking of the *Secretary's Intention* to have provided me at once with as many Pounds Sterling as I at the time computed of Dollars wanted.—His Scheme for which besides enabling the absolute completion of the City Plan gave a greater certainty to the attainment of the political end, than the most timorous of the Interested to its success could well have questioned—here to take away the wonder of the dismissal so far as I myself witnessed of the transaction ascribing the mistake to the temper of some of the primary consulted who precluded the president's own Judgment of the merits of the proposal the circumstances may be well appealed to as one of the many Instances when to my knowledge the dearest Interest of the City of Washington was sacrificed through the passion and weakness of its most esteemed Supporters and the Infatuation of some whom wishing the Seat of Government stand a mere contemptible hamlet had rested better satisfied with giving great name to small things than with having in reality those things done which were to have reflected an immortal honor on the nation, and rapidly raised that Seat a splendid invit-

ing Capital—the Influence of whose character surprisingly discernable in the opposition met while pursuing matters, the Injunction to me to effect which had been positive and reiterate, betrayed no less personal ill will causing those Injunctions to me the more Imperious in proportion as bereaving me of the means I was tricked into a necessity either to have metamorphosed myself an Insignificant impotent employer or renounced all concern in the business the latter of which must have been expected from me better than that I could with honor at Stake at the issue of an Enterprize wholly of my own Scheme have descended from my Post insensible of a greater due and that I would covetously stooping to Insult and breach of agreement have committed myself to becoming the pliant tool for middling Speculators to have worked the destruction of the very riches by my labour to your Commission procured and so that on the Event of the Enterprize missing its end, I must have stood the apparent reprehensible cause.—a chance which for being now happily evaded still will not be believed out of the Intent of those who have advised or advocate that beggarly system of Oeconomy to which your Commission has been reduced being incredible how other but raking Schemery and Enemies to the politics and glory of the great patron founder of the City, can have opposed more provident arrangement and at the hazard of losing all, dared so novel and vast a work without a guide at least with none that could feel his repute and honour engaged to the success

Could them whose Influence was so prevalent be at all the City friends—these insidious flatterers and courtiers of my exertions—it must be seen that watchful of the progress and Jealous of the Success, they provoked the resignation of my concern out of conceit of

abilities to have themselves overtaken again my ways and advantaged of all by me brought within power of effecting, and the facts and deductions to be drawn from all in the foregoing recital speaking of the wrong I suffered all the pretence of this having been perpetrated out of good wish to the City, would not make that wrong less it would not diminish the evidences of the abuse to my property nor would it embellish the hideousness of the motive for the use make of people who under me were necessarily trusted with all my Ideas and Intentions, to say but these people did not so aid the business as might be imagined or that such promotion as in No. 4 (related) was only meant as a screen to the preferment of more reputable concurrent.

Be those persons who superceded me and who in rotation may have expelled one another either mere would be thought Architects or truly bred up to the profession and learned and able practisers—if they followed the paths chalked out by me or stepped from it, the result as the City shall rise will shew which of presumptuous ignorance or of true Judgment has been their guide and as I shall sincerely more lament the errors than Jealous the success—declaring here that I am far from the Idea of even reproaching them who have benefited of my stripping and that I neither pretend challenging an explication of the conduct of Superiors simply yielding, and with much reluctance too, to the hard necessity of unfolding the unhappy situation of my affairs and to what owing—I have particularized heads of grievances, and offered a comparative of Conduct in order that a right Judgment may be formed of the Errors and of where may lay.—and how the estimation of which you Gentlemen whom I now address I trust will be satisfied of the ground upon

which I promised to myself—but the Man whose mind I esteem was too great, and whose heart was too good to have partaken of the Intention of Wrong would not have failed at this Juncture for causing a redress proportionate to all what my fortune, and fame have suffered.

Claiming such redress I question not but your Commission has itself all along holden the honor and Justice of the American Nation for Engaged to—and therefore hope that you Gentlemen actually in Office will view the foregoing as properly submitted to their consideration and left to be acted upon as in their own joint wisdom shall be deemed most consistent—I remaining well certain that divested of all prepossessions and selfish regard—as a body actuated by no Interest but that of doing good—the merit of all circumstances will be generously weighed and that if—incompatible as I apprehend it may be with your charge be to do that ample Justice which is my right to expect—if the matter should need be referred to Government you will (without refraining from affording what redress and relief may be in the power of your Commission) make it a point on the first convenient opportunity in an official way to call the Government attention on the state of the business—

Could the opportunity soon occur I would anticipate much from your Individual good Commendation. Indulging in the persuasion but the propriety and merit of all my acts and directions in respect to business of the City of Washington has long before been rendered sensible to you Gentlemen in the prosecution of the Enterprize and that—however renouncing the System of operations by me set in train you have attained the principal of the end for which I contended—you will feel the attainment short of what I aimed at but not



the less for that adding to the debt of gratitude to me for—you will feel how by being secured in the object, the nation has become more directly in honor bound to compensate my loss and to repay my zeal and trouble and you will that the whole due may be appreciated, and discharged with credit to the nation as readily acknowledging, and as doubtless would have done him in whose praise I made my pride,—that the final fixing of the Federal Government on the bank of the Potomack, the advantage to result to the Union and the enrichment over an immense tract of contiguous country is in a most particular manner attributable to the vivacity of my first conception of the business—to the Combination of my exertions beyond my professional line and to the devotedness with which suffering a great reverse of fortune I disregarded all consequences to myself honestly keeping at my post making head against cavilling opposition until by a display of the grand intention of my plan and by the manifestation of power as well as of resolution to effect it the reputation which I acquired to the Enterprize had in connecting the pride with the Interest of the Union changed the most influential of the Component States from Enemies into friends to the Establishment.

With due Respect I have the honor to be

[Endorsement.]

MR. L'ENFANTS

Memorial

delivered by

Jno. Langdon

21 March

1801

Sess

2 Cons.

PHILADELPHIA, decembr. 7th, 1800.

Memorial to the Honorable the Senate and to  
the Honorable the house of representatives of the  
United States of America in Congress assembled—

Respectfully shewing that, I your memorialist—Peter  
charles L'Enfant—major of Engineer in the revolu-  
tionary war, having entered the Service of the United  
States early in 1776—served without interruption to  
the end of the war, and, to great personal sacrifices  
joining the merit of wounds received and of hard Cap-  
tivity endured—having remained an inhabitant of the  
Said States, and a freeman of the City of new york by  
Special honorifick patent continuing usefull in various  
public employment since the peace of 1784—but with-  
out any pay, and at my own expenses having performed  
many Services through encouragement of promises of  
regular reappointment with preferment consistant with  
my acquired title to—waiting that and, on the occasion  
of the first of the act fixing the permanent Seat of  
government on the bank of the potomack I having also  
been Invited there and charged of the devising of a  
Scheme for the establishment of a City, I consequently  
afterward, upon the adoption of the whole of the plan  
by me proposed became a principal in the direction  
Jointly with the Commission by law Constituted—fur-  
ther giving to Consider that I your memorialist pro-  
ceeded on that Service as I had done many before with  
more promptness to act than care of Stipulating Con-  
ditions or of procuring legal Substantiating to all the  
promised in the end—the mournfull event of the loss  
of the great chief and first President of these United  
States by whose choice and Confidence I had been hon-  
ored depriving me of the friend and principal depen-  
dancy in my cause—the whole in the following submit-

ted claim from the Equity of your honorable house to be generously considered.—

The terms of the Invitation to me to the potomack having simply been these (viz)—to undertake there the President Intention—and next on the Connecting of my agency with the Commission—the Supremacy over all the employed being Conceded to me the Commission also having left it to me—to devise to Suggere and to bring on all Sorts of arrangement or matters of Interest to the enterprise—this great Confidence and responsibility too to—answer, whilst at the Same time the required and the expected from me at once at the on Set of the business enlarged its difficulties and the Scheme of enterprise for its novelty excited a faning of Interests—will doubtless well Satisfy your honorable house—how laborious was my task and that an active resolute exertion of abilities alone Could forward that business and in the midst of a world of Intrigues and of Contrarieties have well preserved the mind free for the Combinations of a plan So peculiarly adapted to circumstances and so varied as is that of the city of Washington.

Noticing these Intrigues because at first and so long as uncertainty attended my labour having been moderated— the disguise was thrown off as gradually as by a loyal and generous display and communication of my every Intentions and ends, I diminished my own Consequence by rendering my own plan possible to other to execut Independant of me and —it having been then when—agreeably to the President desire and after urged on by the Commissionairs themselves— a beginning had been made at all points and when—Supply was Insured to all adequate (at least by me brought within reach to have been so Insured) that a cry against maintaining me so able in the agency became to be heard.—

there upon will I pose—leaving it to the wisdom of your honorable house to define the reasons—to Judge of the wrong and how to me hard and mortifying that ---when my agency had thus far been availed of and after so active and successfull—when by all acknowledged to have been to the best of end directed to the satisfaction and advantage of the people owners of the territory of Columbia and also—that my every Step and measures had met the approval and been given the support of the great patron of the establishment whose personal glory the grand end Concerned—the Enemies of that Entreprise and Speculators coalised with the Jealouses of the same which a complete raise of the city to a splendor and greatness worthy its name and the capitol of a grand Empire must have acquired—Should have found Supporters and have become so prevalent and so irresistible as has proved from the wrought on necessity of a departure from my System of general Economic of management to the end of compelling the relinquishment of my concern.

on the resulting abuses and to confine to what directly affected me.—to the evil of Injury to my fame and to that of the destruction of my fortune—having been joined that of a disappointment also of a preferment to an office particularly made my dependency at the first, of the late raising of fortifications and at the successive variance in the reorganisation of the department of Engineers—mentioning that merely to Shew whence and how different ways a victim of my Confidence liberality and zeal in my public Concerns—the Integrity also of the views in all my aspirings having kept me from an over pursuit, in the meanwhile Sunk my every resource under deceptive prospects and Encouragements and—of this Integrity and of its Consequences, the ready resignation I made of my grand

Concern in the affairs of the City of Washington affording conspicuous uncontrollable proof—on these will I rest, deeming it unnecessary more to enumerate Instances when disinterestedness and a Sense of the honorable to do, has been the predominant through my Several achievements for fame—I maintaining the hope that—twenty three years of attachment to these United States, the free Spending of my own in Services not altogether unprofitable to them—having born evidence of my Constancy to principle and gained me the esteem as it had merited me the Confidence of the late chief and first president of these United States will be recommending me to the Indulgence and favour of your honorable house, especially at so auspicious a juncture as that of its first Seating in the city of Washington—when the circumstance naturally is to recal to mind or to prompt to Enquiry to known—by whom was the establishment first framed.

Encouraged by this persuasion in here Stating the object of this memorial to be to Submit to the Equity of your honorable house—certain cases of Infraction of my rights and due, with other Injury Sustained at the close of my Concerns in the affairs of the City of Washington call in abuse of the generosity and loyalty of my conduct,—referring for particular to the Subjoined paper No. 1. I your Memorialist confidently pray for redress and for Compensation.

also and to the end that my Scheme of the City establishment may become better understood—referring to the Commission itself for Explanation of the propriety of the novel way of division and to Shew the practicability (agreeable to my Intention) with ease to have Completed the work within the period by the act limited.—this as will Satisfy of the fore-cast of my combinations and of the weight of the charge and care

at the Setting on of so great a work under operation, being to enable the proper valuing of the plan and the merit of my direction.

farther I Shall not take up the time of your honorable house but to express regret that, the Interests that have been to detach me from that business Should have also dissuaded its prosecution on the System by me laid down and to the admission of Ignominious lottery Speculation and of other destructive of the city property—which by dissabling the Commission from that great mean for Supply that had been through my exertions first created—has left the growth and population of the city a matter of chance at the hazard of missing the main object of its foundation and as necessarily caused its actual Insufficiency and will keep it long yet before it can afford any thing like the promised by me or Suitable for a Seat of national Councils and Government. not at the Same time questioning—but that in parting from my System the principals, managers or others respectable characters Influential to an opposition to me were all actuated by Justifiable motives though differing from the policy that ruled me.—I well account how likewise in an Entreprise so novel a misconception may have been of the proper for an efficient prosecution of the design—how honest minds unsuspecting of the end, can have been persuaded to the worst of expedients and how also Subaltern agents, over officious, may have atchieved much to my Injury—only therefore lamenting the mischief of a coercion of the best Intentions I shall here pass silently over the arts and machinations by which I became a victim of my zeal and of my respect for and Confidence in the high authority by whom I acted—this indeed too long and too disgraceful for recital being besides unimportant, Since it would not alter facts nor could niether add nor diminish of the Injury to Indemnify.

having given the Commission full minute relation of facts and of management as have been in above of the loyalty of my conduct which Joined to the Stock of its own Information will Enable the gentlemen now in office themselves to explain (if that Should be necessary) on points both delicate and grievous to me to remind of—also having there upon obtained the assurance of those gentlemen disposition to Support or aid the prayer I have no made—I not only rely on their Sensibility of an Indemnification being due to me for loss consequent to deprivation and Infraction of certain of my rights as also for other Injury—but that—their own Experience through a long administration—their knowledge of the State in which I found and of that in which I left the local of the City of Washington—both as have Satisfied them of what begining I made and what were the difficulties by me Conquered—will press out an honorable avowal that—for all the change the agency have undergone and however deviating from the principle of the work by me began the chief of the ends for which I contended is now attained—Such an attainment glorious as may be to the Commission Still Short of what I aimed at, is not the less attributable to me and in a high degree too deserving of a munificent acknowledgement for.—being well certain that them who wittnessed my actions, if they be but disinterested men, will all agree that—the Succes of the City of washington was first Insured by the reputation which I gained to the enterprise— by the quick Conception of the proprieties of its local—by exertions and Combinations uncommon to my professional line and by the devotedness with which, whilst I Suffering a great reverse in my family fortune I still persevered in unprofitable labour and at the end resolved, the Sacrifice also of my prospects in

that Entrepise to a reconciliation and harmonising of parties and Interests that opposed the progress.

I indulg therefore the hope that to the regard of all circumstances upon which my prayer is founding the pressure of my necessities will be conclusive from Seeing me come forward in the mortifying attitude of Supplicant before your honorable house at a place and on a day too as the present when reflection alone must Convince that—if I had but been permitted the execution of the City plan, the brilliancy of the Success by bringing me all triumphantly over the Jealouses would now have gained me the honor of a free unanimous vote in Expression of the Satisfaction at the Service.

feeling the differenc of the Situation and humbly Submitting my case to your honorable house I your Memorialist remain

with profound respect

the Honorable the Senate  
and the Honorable the house  
of representatives

most obedient  
most devoted and  
humble servant

PETER CHARLES L'ENFANT.

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Note referred to on page 12 of the Exposition

With respect to the tales that "I withheld from the commissioners the plan and the information in my possession relative thereto" the following questions and answers must naturally occur, viz.

Question. 1.—What right could the commissioners pretend to my plan or to those informations relative thereto?



Answer. none whatever.

Q. 2.—Did they ever ask this of me?

A. never.

Q. 3.—Why did they not?

A. I presume because I was not paid for & was not obliged by any promise to have done more than I did.

Q. 4.—Did they not receive the plan from the president and the information which he chose to give to them?

A. they certainly did.

#### Memorandum

If I had retained anything improperly, the president was the only person to whom I was accountable.

Q. 5.—Did not the commissioners forcibly take possession of a manuscript of my plan, together with notes of my directions to surveyors, which I had lent on trust to one of the persons employed by them after I had left the business?

A. They absolutely did so.

Q. 6.—Did they not in a surreptitious manner procure and cause my plan to be engraved at Philadelphia?

A. They did so.

Q. 7.—When they thus procured the engraving did they not know that I intended to have published it? and had they not themselves engaged of me 10,000 copies?

A. They undeniably did know & had so engaged.

Q. 8.—Was I not justly entitled to expect from them the price for those 10,000 copies that I might have got by a sale to others?

A. I believe there can be no doubt of it.

Q. 9.—Was it not therefore doing me a wilful injury to sell the engraving for their own account or purpose

at a reduced price thereby depriving me of my price and of the right to the exclusive privilege of publication?

A. It was.

Q. 10.—If they had had any right to it would they have resorted to so shameful a mode of procuring it?

A. I believe they wd have taken a more legal way.

Q. 11.—Did not president Washington declare the engraved plan to be the determined plan of the city and that he would not permit it to be deviated from?

A. He did so declare.

Q. 12.—Was not the president bound by every principle of honor and justice, as he had previously promised to the proprietors not to depart from the original, by me in the first instance laid out?

A. He certainly was.

Q. 13.—Was it not by thus binding himself as also by promising the execution in the way I proposed that he obtained the assent of the landed proprietors to the partition of the building lots & obtained besides the several parcels of land purchased for the use of the U. S. at so low a price as 25 pounds per acre?

A. This is a well known and an undeniable fact.

Q. 14.—Can it therefore be doubted that the engraved plan is agreeable to the original *lines of the grand divisions* of the city? that it is correct with respect to the distribution of the sites of the capitol, judiciary and the president's house—that it is also correct in the course of the canal and that no alteration can be made in any of those things?

A. This cannot be doubted and I certify that it is absolutely so.

Q. 15.—What then are the alterations. Were there not several lines of avenues suppressed from the original design; and did not this suppression cause a de-

rangement in the lines also of some of the right angled streets?

A. There were some such alterations but these were made by myself at the recommendation of the president & of the secretary of state, Mr. Jefferson, as early as august 1791 before I prepared the map for engraving, and at the request of the original proprietors of one particular section of the city. And all the proprietors know that altho the drawing laid before them at their general meeting was declared to be approved by the president, it had not his final approval until after the above alterations were made and only on the date aforesaid.

N. B.—No other alteration could possibly be effected except the change of property from hand to hand, that is to say, that some squares were struck out which were intended to be reserved as public property and have been permitted to be sold to individuals—this produced a change in numbering the lots and could not be justly called an alteration in the plan.

P. CHAS. L'ENFANT

No. 1

paper referred to  
per memorial to—the Honorable the Senate (decembr.  
7th) and the Honorable the House of representatives  
of the United States &c.

Particular Statement of Cases referred to per memorial and the Circumstance under which offered having been explained leave now to be Considered as are in the following numeral heads respectfully Submitted (viz)

1st.—of Injury done to my fame as an Artist—by multiplied Spurious publication of my plan of the City of Washington, in abuse of a permission first by me

granted in *obedience* to the president own desire for an essay engraving with his prior assurance that no copying from would have been allowed.—next by hinderance of publishing a Correct map in my own name the materials for which, Such as manuscript drawing notes of grounds level and measurement &c. all were through Some authority laid hold of and detained from me. lastly—by the Singular policy—of suppressing my name from the title of the maps as emitted and that likewise of preventing the mention of in pamphlets and other the most notable public relation that have been of the Columbian establishment and to the end (manifest) of depriving me of the honor of becoming known as the Original designer.

2dly.—of the resulting Injury to my fortune—by deprivation thus of the proceed from Sale of my own work—to the number of upward of 15,000 Copies on a moderate computation from the difference of the Engravers hands—from the variety of Sizes plates, also from the extent and population of country and places where have for these nine years past been disposed of here and in Europe and mostly Selling for from tow to three dollars each.—whether or not such be the number out, at least from 15 to 20,000 Copies are but the *raisonable* to be taken into view as the probable quantity that would have Sold of the right maps at the time of first Interest and Curiosity as had been excited by my exertions at the Commencement of the *entreprise*—therefore being easily to estimate the difference now to my fortune Seeing the mischief obviously owing to my *Condescension in obedience to the President of the United States*—I cannot doubt but my right to a Compensation will here be readily admitted.

3dly.—of Injury likewise to my fortune and fame—owing to transgression of promises, particularly re-

specting the tow main Edifices, the Capitol and presidency palace.—the erecting of both which after my own designs had been a primary Condition to my engagement to planing the City.—to whose peculiar division those Edifices were in Configuration essential to have exactly corresponded.—whereas the unjust recant from the promised—the injudicious departure from what I had began through management of people either ill Intent or Incapable of fitting the plans to the Circumstances of the Site for—has ruined the most estimable part of the Scheme which for the originalness of the thought in its whole Connected would have raised the City of washington to an unrivaled splendour.—an Injury to my fortune thence arising from the loss of the very designs Sketches minute of the Intended Edifices and of preparative for other and for the *aqueducts*, the *bridges*, the grand *dock* and *Canal &c.*—all precious memorandum for an Artist to have preserved and all destroyed or diverted away from my own quarter and out of other offices under favour it is believed of disturbances in my absence excited—the last Instance of which (when while I was abroad on business with the president my begining of the foundation of the main Edifices was arrested and other operations too prevented, that were waited for by me and necessary to my perfecting the general plan) determined the abandonement of the whole of my Concerns to the Commission.

4th.—of the Injury to my fortune owing to heavy expences and loss consequent to removal from a City (New York) were prior Succesfull entreprize had placed me able of commanding great business and where I not only missed great chances of fortune by absense but absolutely lost a property in lots of ground worth \$5,000 (for which it was Sold) through contrivance of

Some malevolent avaricious men amongst the Corporation of that City who made me appear as having renounced the grant.

5th.—that at the end,—those Jealousies and Speculations Contradictory to my System Caused me the loss of a bargain of \$50,000 a Sum of right perquisite accruing from particular Compagnies Entreprises of building in amount at first place of \$1,000,000 and which Intended to double that Sum with an Increase of the benefit to me, being to have been planed and conducted in concert and to the advancement of the public part of Improvements were Consequently to have depended on my direction.—on which—

it may be remarked that—in order for giving certainty to the whole connected Entreprise (no provision having been made for by law) I had been from the beginning and while planing of it authorised to the organisation of Such compagnies, and with the double object of by their means procuring advances of money, which at my Invitation they had offered to an amount at once equal to the whole Computed want for five years of operations—for the paving of Streets—for the grand canal and—for other usefull and pleasurable Improvements which it made part of my System to have progressed far in, before making any great Sale of lots even before building of houses.—the Contract proposed hath afforded all the necessary money on a Simple Interest of 5 per Cent. without any premium, on the Security of the City property itself—and to have been gradually reimbursed either by giving houses lots or Cost, at the choice of the borrower and beginning only after ten years, So that the houses lots enhanced in price by progress of Improvements clearly would have answered (what I meant by that property) to have Saved altogether the Expense of the City establishment to

the nation—a Scheme of bargain the most Equal in advantages to both Sides of the Concernies—the which hath met the mind of the president and his approval too (apparently at least Judging from the dismissal of all Interfering proposals and namely of one coming from the Secretary of the treasury [*Mr. Hamilton*] all which making the negociation Complete So far as in me depended—maintain me in the hope but the missing of the promised by the bargain, as related to myself with those Compagnies, especially when it is reflected on the cause, will be admitted as a grievance properly recorded amongst Injury Intitling me to Compensation.

6th.—that besides that the esteem of the character and my personal dependancy in the late President dispositions had commanded an early unreserved communication of my plans and the display of the machinery for Execution (so much to my Injury since abused of) other raisons Joined as forcibly Inducive that—no beforehand bargain—had been possible for the work of those plans nor no Sallary Could have been well determined for my agency nor direction of a work so varied and unprecedented—before Some previous beginning and an understanding of the whole magnitude of the objects of pursuit had been for an appraisement of the labour and Computing with that too the advantages ensuing to the nation from the grand Combination of the plan.

thus the matter more than once all considered with the late President and on particular occasions too when the Commissionaires questioned what would be the price of my services they having acquiesced in the observation on the propriety of a postponing of the determination on the Subject—it was by all well understood that an allowance proportionate to a gross estimate of the

hole expenditure is the due, in all great enterprise to the Architect Conductor, Independently of payment for plans and of other gratifications—and being agreeable to Such common usage that the Compagnies afore-noticed did offered me the \$50,000 clearly the public part of the operations to have gone on upon a pace with the private ventures—the Commissionaires themselves must have felt had at least Intitled me to Some thing Similarly gratifying as allowance for the general direction Since that direction Could not possibly have embrassed less than it at first did—because upon a fast progressing of at one and the same time all the main parts of the City was depending my promise and Engagement to them to have raised it a City to all Intent and purposes by the time by law prescribed for the removal of Government.

7th.—that being charged with the execution of the president of the United States Intentions I could not have thought of bargaining before hand, nor of asking for written Instructions or directions as I might well have done if I had been the Simple agent of the Commission—that thus—Insecure myself—but Engaged to an Insurance of the political end of the Enterprise as well as to the Safty of the ventures in it, and urged as I were besides from all sides and by Injunctions too the most positive and recidive from the president and from the Commission; to a premature begining and progress in all what I proposed—having So confidently and So laboriously worked to gratify Impatient desire and been left no leisure for thinking of the end to myself,—when it is considered that that end proved so abusive that it would Seem as if I had only been valued as a convenient tool for levelling difficulties and be handled at every ones wish till the way made certain for other, the trowing of me aside had become expe-



dient for reaping reputation and profit from my labour—Surrely it cannot be otherwise but manifest (and as I promised it to myself) that the great chief patron of the establishment whose immediate and Confidential agent I was—whose approval and Support hath Encouraged me in all my pursuits—being himself too honorable and too good to have encouraged doings against his own Sense of the proprieties or with an Intention of the resulted wrong—knowing how much I suffered and that I Submitted to all out of respect for and Confidence in him—would not have failed on the present occasion from befriending me and have of his own movement procured a redress every ways proportionate extending the esteemation of the Indemnification due to what a few months of longer Continuance in the business must necessarily have all secured to me.—an estimation which how high so ever may here bring the Sum to Indemnify—none who have a knowledge and understanding of the nature and proprieties of all the performed will Consider any way above the merited nor Could it indeed be deemed so by them who may be judge of only the labour and fatigue—the tow first seasons of tryal of which all who withnessed will allow Committed me to more than the human frame and mind would be Capable of long Sustaining

8.—and lastly that—the Cases offered here for Consideration—are not Cases merely of a missing of gain or of deprivation the causes of trivials embarrassment momentarily felt—but cases of real loss—of disappointment of absolute dues—of right dependency and of abuses altogether the cause the active cause of my total ruin—the cause of the total extinction of my resources in this Country and likewise of the loss of inheritance in my native— being the fact that being Invited to the entreprise of the city of washington at an

Epoch of revolution when the occurrences in my native Country proved the most destructive of any that have been to Individuals rental estate took away from me the possibility of exertions to have Saved mine and that whilst my attention necessarily diverted from the turning of my family fortune caused the entire ceasing of the Supply from parents whom did afforded to all my need both during the late war and till that time in this Country—it so proved that also the necessary abandon or neglect of all private Concerns that could have divided my attention from the City of Washington—were jointly the cause that—(on the vanishing of the grand prospect of fame and fortune by which I had been allured to the *Entreprise*) I was left without any thing on which to depend for Sustainance—since which vain though arduous my exertions were to retrieve—the disappointment also of the waited for employment in my line of engineer exhausting all my having and the assistance of my friends too—has plunged me in to an abyss of difficulties the endurance of which I have only been heartened to till this day by the reflection that I am deserving of better end.—

Closing here and Conscious that all in the foregoing is Strictly the true and precise exposition of facts and of their unhappy Consequences—pledging myself to that—it is nevertheless not upon the exciting of a sensibility of the wrongs which I suffered that I found my hope now in the Equity and munificence of the American national representation—my Encouragement so to hope from them rather deriving from a Confidence in their just sense and well appraising of the greatness of my *Entreprise* of at once creating a City to be the Capital of so vast an Empire and that in the Estimation of the national advantages therefrom to derive, they will allow me my Share of the merite.

whatever be the room for petty criticism as out of zeal to excuse the actual Incomplete State of thing seem bent to Shift off the blame on me by affectingly reproving the extensiveness of the plan and novelty of the distribution of the City of washington—fearing not the malignancy of such fault finder nor that of Jealouses where I have the approbation of my own mind for all what I did or Intended doing—relying on the honor of the Commissionaires themselves—in referring to them for the explanation of the Intention and conditions upon which my plan was framed and to tell how far they have Conformed to or deviated from—here I will rest upon the presumption of its being visible to all well discerning mind—

that the actual Inconveniency and difficulties under which Government will have for a while yet to Continue at the City of washington—are not the fault of the System of the plan of establishment nor Imputable to any of the management of the projector but—to the contrary that it is the natural necessary consequence of a departure from the rule of conduct first by me traced and Entirely the fault of the abandonement of the works by me began--nothing of which therefore can any wise diminish of the merite of original Intent nor make those great advantages (as after all soon or later, must result to the United States, the less attributable to the well Conception and grand Combination of my Scheme. upon which it may Suffice to remind

that the first gain, from my labour has been that—of an Immense property over and above the wanted for defrayment of the whole work of the city - that to me is equally due the great Increase of the wealth of all the Indigenous Individuals of the territory of Columbia as likewise will be the progressive enrichment of an Extensive Surrounding Country whilst manufac-

turers and mechanics will be benefited various ways whose genius and arts in all the respective relations the vast operations of the plan of the City were calculated for, and can not but yet by suscession of time greatly advance to a rivalling of European Superiority.

thus to the recall (as per memoranda) of my military Services and Suffering in trying time of difficulties and hazard—being to be joined the recollection of many of my atchievements and endeavours to an advancement of the genius for liberal arts and Sciences, I trust—that allowing me the merite of having been a zealous and primary promoter of a Spirit for great enterprises through the United States—the Consideration will be that—*I in no Instance worked to my profit* and that having had on all occasions the Glory and Interests of these United States at heart—my exertions as respect to the territory of Columbia were not Confined to the machinal drawing of plans nor to the Stupid overseeing of men.

therefore Safely here leaving off the Consideration of grievances—if such as are in the foregoing numbered were possible to be denied the redress and compensative prayed for—Still would I not renounce the expectation of a full Equivalent to that—in an other way on the Simple appraising of the merited by my Services and performances

relying upon this it is that I here confidently Supplicate that redress and Indemnification may be—for the Injury done to my fame by anonymous Spurious publication of my plans—and for the wrong to my fortune likewise owing to deprivation of the proceed from the Sale of my own work—from that of the learning by my labour and for other loss and Sacrifices the result of my zeal confidence and liberality.—testifying at the same time my position now became such as to ren-

der me pressing for a determination—it being absolutely upon what power I may obtain for a restoration of my former having that now depend my Existence—I remmain well persuaded but the prayer will be granted in all points answerable to my long dependency on the Honor the Justice and Equity of the American nation,—

P. CHARLES L'ENFANT

[Endorsement.]

Leg:

2D SESS: 6TH CONG:

No. 1.

Statement of the  
Case of M. L'Enfant.

Decemr. 11th,  
1800.

## **SOMETHING ABOUT L'ENFANT AND HIS PERSONAL AFFAIRS.**

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**By Wilhelmus B. Bryan.**

**[Read before the Society February 18th, 1895.]**

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Neglect, lack of appreciation and ingratitude are generally conceded to have been the lot of L'Enfant, the designer of the plan of the nation's capital. This was his fate in life and posterity has done but little to make amends for the wrong and injustice. It may be that in the near future, his lonely and unmarked grave may be the site of a suitable monument and that in some appropriate place in this city a statue or other memorial will be erected to the genius of the man who designed the plan which confessedly has made Washington the most beautiful and attractive city in the world. Without wishing to detract anything from the fame of the man to whom honor is properly due and has been withheld too long and, indeed, in a spirit of the heartiest admiration for his genius, I have thought that it would be of interest to call the attention of the Society to some isolated facts about L'Enfant which are not generally known.

Whatever may have been the lack of appreciation of L'Enfant's ambition, as indicated by his lonely and neglected later years and the absence of any public recognition of his name and fame in the city which constitutes his chief claim to renown, it is quite certain that L'Enfant himself did not place a slight estimate

upon his abilities and his services. The favorable estimate of his contemporaries as to his attainments in the line of his profession seems to have been practically unanimous; although no doubt some of the early land-owners would have entertained a higher opinion of L'Enfant's plan of the city if it had allowed less space for streets and reservations and consequently added to the number of the square feet in the lots which they had for sale.

But among those in authority L'Enfant, as a designer, stood high and if it had not been for his "unto-ward disposition," as Washington put it, his connection with the city might have had a different termination. In contrast with the unanimity of favorable opinion entertained by L'Enfant, as well as by his contemporaries as to his abilities, may be cited the remarkable and striking divergence in regard to the value of his services.

In March, 1791, he received from Mr. Jefferson, the Secretary of State, instructions to proceed to Georgetown to make drawings of the particular grounds most likely to be approved for the site of the Federal town and the buildings. He was told by Mr. Jefferson that the money for his necessary expenses would be supplied by the Mayor of Georgetown.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with these instructions, L'Enfant, in March, 1791, proceeded to the site of the future city.

The earliest visitor to the new city of whom we have any record, is Col. John Trumbull, whose historic paintings fill the panels in the rotunda of the Capitol. About the time the city was begun he was engaged in traveling around the country for the purpose of securing portraits of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. On his way north from Richmond, in May,

<sup>1</sup> Sect. of State to L'Enfant, Reports, &c., 2d Sess., 7th Cong.

1791, he states in his autobiography that he arrived in Georgetown, "where I found Major L'Enfant drawing his plan of the City of Washington; rode with him over the ground on which the city has since been built; where the Capitol now stands was then a thick wood."<sup>2</sup>

L'Enfant's connection with the city, after a service of just one year, ended in March, 1792, when, it being found impracticable to employ him, as Jefferson expresses it, "in that degree of subordination which was lawful and proper, he has been notified that his services are at an end." It seems that no definite arrangement was made in regard to his compensation and Jefferson, in a letter to the Commissioners, states that it is the wish that the reward for his services should be liberal, and that "the President thinks of \$2,500 or \$3,000."<sup>3</sup>

A few days later the Commissioners, in reply to Mr. Jefferson's letter, inform him that they have adopted the President's idea about compensation. They state that L'Enfant had already received about \$600 from them, besides his expenses of living and they expressed the opinion that he will have no cause to complain of having met with an inadequate reward.

On the same day the Commissioners write to L'Enfant, who is in Philadelphia, notifying him that they have deposited the sum of 500 guineas with a firm in Philadelphia, where he may apply for it. In addition they inform him that they will give him a lot, either near the President's House or near the Capitol, as he may choose.<sup>4</sup> As is well known, L'Enfant, a few days later, rather curtly informed the Commissioners that he would accept neither the money nor the lot.

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<sup>2</sup> Autobiography of John Trumbull, p. 166, New Haven, 1841.

<sup>3</sup> Sect. of State to Commissioners, Reports, &c., 2nd Sess., 7th Cong.

<sup>4</sup> Reports, &c., 2nd Sess., 7th Cong.



He was evidently too proud to enter into any explanation of why he did not accept the Commissioners' offer. How far the estimate of Washington, Jefferson and the Commissioners of the city of the value of the services rendered by L'Enfant fell short of the engineer's own estimate may be accurately determined, for L'Enfant has left a record of what he believed to be justly due him. It seems that his haughty attitude in regard to this matter was maintained for some eight years and then, in 1800, appeared L'Enfant's first memorial to the President and to Congress, stating his claim and asking a settlement.

In this document summarized by the committee on claims, which reported it adversely in 1802, L'Enfant mentions in detail the various items in his bill against the Government as follows: For his labor for one year, \$8,000; for the profit he had a right to receive from the sale of maps, \$37,500; and the further sum of \$50,000, to use the petitioner's own expression, "for perquisites of right in particular negotiations and enterprise." The total claim amounted to \$95,500.<sup>5</sup>

The difference between \$95,500 and \$2,500, even when the value of a lot in the city of Washington is thrown into the balance, must have been sufficiently striking to make an impression on such an artistic temperament as L'Enfant evidently possessed. It is probable that even a poet would have noticed this discrepancy between anticipation and realization, and, therefore, it need not be so surprising that L'Enfant was rendered speechless and remained so for nearly eight years.

After leaving the service of the city he seems to have found some employment as an engineer, but it was probably of irregular duration. Tradition has it that he spent considerable time in haunting the corridors of

<sup>5</sup> Report Commission on Claims, Dec. 24th, 1802.

the Capitol building in the interests of his claim. He failed, however, to induce Congress to take the same view of the value of his services to the city as he did.

Following a period of delay which, it seems, was as characteristic of legislative consideration of such matters in those days as in later years, on the 27th of March, 1804, a bill became a law which, in one of its sections authorized the superintendent of the city to settle and pay L'Enfant's claim "in the manner, and on the terms heretofore proposed, by the said Commissioners." It seems, however, that the unfortunate engineer was deeply in debt and a creditor by the name of McRae secured a judgment and levied on the money which L'Enfant was authorized to receive. In consequence the necessities of L'Enfant, which had become extremely urgent, were not relieved by this measure.

Some four years later, in 1808, L'Enfant addressed the Superintendent of the city, calling his attention to to the fact that this money had been taken by one of his creditors and explaining that the pressing need of securing the means to support his miserable existence was the reason that he again applied for assistance. He suggested that in the amount awarded to him under the act of Congress there had been some mistake in the calculation and, in his opinion, there was still due him some three or four hundred dollars. He asked the superintendent to look into the matter and inform him whether he could not draw on him for that amount. He stated that he would thus be able to pay a board bill due to a Mr. Rhodes and that about \$100 would be left for his own use.<sup>6</sup>

The history of the claim seems to have been closed by a bill which became a law in 1810, appropriating the

<sup>6</sup> L'Enfant to the Superintendent of the city of Washington, April, 1808.

sum of \$666.66 with legal interest from March 1, 1792, to pay L'Enfant for services in laying out a plan of the city. The total amount received by L'Enfant under this act was \$1,394.20. It is difficult to determine why this exact amount was fixed upon, but it is not improbable that it was the balance remaining unpaid of the \$2,500, which Washington and Jefferson and the Commissioners believed to be a liberal compensation for his services.

Congress apparently was of the same mind. As has already been stated, the Commissioners informed Mr. Jefferson in 1792 that they had already paid L'Enfant \$600. With this exception and the one above mentioned, there is only one other record as far as I have been able to learn of an additional payment having been made to L'Enfant. At the first sale of the lots awarded to the Government in the division, the records show that L'Enfant became the purchaser of lot 30, square 137, which is on the west side of Seventeenth street, just north of H street. This sale was held in September, 1791. L'Enfant paid \$67 at the time of the sale and there was a balance due of some \$200. The price of the lot was 99 pounds, Maryland currency, or in the currency of the present day about \$267.<sup>7</sup> The property was transferred to L'Enfant and several years later the balance due was paid by the city. L'Enfant subsequently transferred the lot to Richard Loderstrom and the latter in 1809 assigned the lot to Philip Barton Key.

The general outlines of the life of L'Enfant are pretty well known. He was a young man in the prime of life when he designed the plan of the city. He lived to the good old age of seventy. Nearly one half of his life was practically spent in obscurity. As is well

<sup>7</sup>House Report No. 39, 1871, Cong. 22d Sess.

known he lived for a number of years as a dependent at the home of William Dudley Diggs, on a farm near this city, now the property of the Riggs estate. He was buried there. Some writers claim that he lived in absolute retirement, never even visiting this city.

The late W. W. Corcoran recalled having often seen L'Enfant and said that he was a frequent visitor at his father's house. Mr. Corcoran described L'Enfant as a tall, erect man, fully six feet in height, finely proportioned, nose prominent, of military bearing, courtly air and polite manners, his figure usually enveloped in a long overcoat and surmounted by a bell-crowned hat.<sup>8</sup> As far as known, no picture of L'Enfant is in existence, although in a history of the city of Washington, published as late as the year 1889, there is a cut of a handsome man, under which appears the inscription "Pierre Charles L'Enfant."

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<sup>8</sup> Hugh T. Taggart's lecture, *The Evening Star* (Washington), Mar. 30th, 1893.

**MAJ. PIERRE CHARLES L'ENFANT,  
THE UNHONORED AND UNREWARDED ENGI-  
NEER,**

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**By**  
**James Dudley Morgan, M. D.**

[Read before the Society February 18th, 1895.]

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It is a lasting disgrace upon the American Congress and people that one like Pierre Charles L'Enfant, in whom we find so much to admire and to reward, who has done so much for America, its Capital and the American people, should have, in the early summer and autumn of his life, (but for the kind and substantial aid given him by Thomas Attwood Digges of Warburton, and later by Wm. Dudley Digges, of Green Hill, the grandfather of the writer, where he died June 14th, 1825), depended (Exhibit A) upon charity for the most ordinary necessities to sustain life.

Pierre Charles L'Enfant was no beggar (Exhibit B) when he came to us from France in the early part of the year 1777. He was at that time a lieutenant in the French Provincial Service. In the autumn of that year he tendered his services as engineer in the Continental Army. He was born in 1755, of good parentage, and had relatives and friends of substantial means.

His original commission of Captain of Engineers bears date of February 18, 1778. He fought through

NOTE. An authentic likeness of L'Enfant cannot be found.—Author.

the Revolutionary War, shedding his blood for our cause on the battle-field at Savannah. He was a prisoner under Sir Henry Clinton; paroled May, 1780, by Major Stuart, Com. of Prisoners; exchanged, New York, January 17th, 1782. He was made Major of Engineers May 2d, 1783. At the close of the Revolution we find his services constantly in demand, more especially in the capacity of engineer and architect. A testimonial (Exhibit C) from the corporation of New York, dated 13th October, 1789, and signed by Jas. Duane, secretary, speaks of his distinguished merit and services. A most interesting letter is one (Exhibit D) dated 11th of June, 1789, from D. Humphreys, telling L'Enfant that "Mrs. Washington having postponed an engagement for Saturday next is desirous of seeing the Federal Building." A little earlier in the same year is a letter dated May 24th, 1789, from Alexander Hamilton writing thus to L'Enfant about the design for the medal of the Cincinnati: (Exhibit E) "You will not forget, I hope the devices for the coins. As soon as your imagination shall have fixed upon anything, I shall be glad to know it." He was the architect and builder of Robert Morris' house in Philadelphia, and here I shall stop for a moment to refer to the many inaccuracies and unwarranted allusions, which are made by most biographers of L'Enfant. The biography, though it may be brief, will most likely refer to him as the man who built the house of Robert Morris, which brought financial ruin to its owner; not seeking, perhaps not caring to know that L'Enfant did not reap the harvest; for in the writer's possession are (Exhibit F) uncanceled promissory notes of Robert Morris for large sums to L'Enfant. L'Enfant was also the engineer of Fort Mifflin, 1794, and later on of (Exhibit G) Fort Washington. In the fall of 1791 we find

him engaged in examining the quarries of Wigginton Island, Aquia, Va., for purpose of foundation stone for the Capitol of the United States, and on the 18th of November, 1791, he consummated a lease of these quarries from George Brent. He was appointed, July 7, 1812 (Exhibit II) "Professor of the Art of Engineering in the Military Academy of the United States." This appointment he did not accept, and wrote on the paper of notification, "unaccepted but not rejected—P. C. L'Ent."

What interests us most at this conversationé, are, first, documentary facts, and, second, written evidence tending to show what part L'Enfant took in laying out the City of Washington. The letters (Exhibit I) of Jefferson show very plainly of themselves that President Washington had left the planning of the city in the hands of L'Enfant. Jefferson writes, "I am happy that the President has left the planning of the town in such good hands." Under date of August 18, 1791, Jefferson writes to L'Enfant: "A (Exhibit J) person applied to me the other day on the subject of engraving a map of the Federal territory. I observed to him that if yourself or Mr. Ellicott chose to have this done, you would have the best right to it." L'Enfant under-scores the name, Mr. Ellicott, and writes on the margin of the paper in pencil, "what right could this man have thereto." On (Exhibit K) September 9th, 1791, the Commissioners direct Major L'Enfant to insert the soundings of the Western Branch in the map and also "we expect Major Ellicott will furnish you with the direction of a post-road, which we wished noticed in the map." In a (Exhibit L) letter of September 12, 1791, from Andrew Ellicott to L'Enfant, he says that "Jefferson and Madison appeared much pleased both with the plan of the city and the country which it cov-

ers." Further on in his letter he says: "I expected some directions from them (Commissioners) respecting the different plans, where the lots should be laid off, but received none." Ellicott finishes his letter, "I am, Dr. Sir, Your real friend." Tobias Lear writes Major L'Enfant from Philadelphia, Oct. 6th, 1791, that he had called on Mr. Pigal about "the plate of copper for the engraving of the Federal city; \* \* \* that he requests to have your large draft of the city \* \* \*. I shall call upon him again in the morning and will press him, if it is possible to get some done from the draft which he has." \* \* \* The letter (Exhibit M) of Tobias Lear, October 12, 1791, to L'Enfant tells him, "I am desirous of obtaining a lot for myself in a pleasant and agreeable part of the city, provided the price does not exceed 500 dollars \* \* \* ; the water lots on the Eastern Branch appear from the draft (of the map) to be best for that purpose." A true copy ((Exhibit N) of a letter from L'Enfant to David Burns, December 21, 1791, says that "agreeable to his request the squares, on which he wished to erect his house will be marked; the squares marked in the map No. 171 will border on one of the diagonal avenues to the President's palace," \* \* \* Coming down to a later date are (Exhibit O) L'Enfant's estimates of expenses for carrying on the work for 1792, as he had laid down in his draft; also (Exhibit P) observations explanatory of the plan. It may be interesting, in closing my part of this short symposium on L'Enfant and Ellicott (for should time permit, the writer could present quite a voluminous communication, covering the time from L'Enfant's appointment as a captain in the Revolutionary army down to and including the declining days of his life, spent as a guest (Exhibit Q) of Wm. Dudley Digges at Green Hill, Prince George's



county, Md.), to read the testimonial (Exhibit R) to L'Enfant signed by all, except a few, of the original proprietors, and these few, as is well known, (Exhibit S) embarrassed and obstructed the project of laying out the streets of the city.

The Commissioners (Wm. Johnson, Dr. Stuart and Daniel Carroll), under date of March 23d, 1794, writing to President Washington, say, "You may recollect that several things in the course of the quarrel with L'Enfant strongly pointed to a duplicity and ill-intentioned conduct of Ellicott." L'Enfant was handled rather shabbily all around; his trunk with papers was purloined, (Exhibit T) his rough sketches and drafts of the city were withheld by his (Exhibit U) assistants (Ellicotts), and the very engraver (Exhibit V) whom Mr. Young, a publisher of a monthly magazine, had intended retaining to engrave the map for L'Enfant, was secured by other parties.

Poor L'Enfant has been accused of so many wrongdoings, that one is surprised to find how many things he did which were good.

He made every reasonable effort to continue at peace with the Commissioners. To his credit, and to our benefit, he fought to the last to have the Federal City laid out on grand, extensive and imposing lines. His appointment came from the President, and to the day of (Exhibit W) his "declining to serve further" if harassed and obstructed in his plans by the counter-orders of the Commissioners, he had the beauty and grandeur of the National Capital at heart and obedience and veneration for the President. The letter to Jefferson (Exhibit X) shows with what earnestness, enthusiasm and pride he entered upon his work, March 11, 1791; and his interest was never abated. He made every effort to expedite (Exhibits Y) the plan and en-

graving of the map of the city and showed his zeal and confidence in its future growth and importance by purchasing a lot (Exhibit Z) on October 18, 1791. The beautiful and touching letter of William Thornton (Exhibit XX) to Roberdeau, is re-echoed as sorrowfully to-day as over one hundred years ago: "I lament that a difference of opinion should have arisen between the late Commissioners and the ingenious Major L'Enfant. \* \* \* I find that no compensation (Exhibit XXX) has yet been obtained by Major L'Enfant for the great exertion (letter torn) his genius and talents." \* \* \*

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#### EXHIBIT A.

Inventory of the personal goods and chattels of Peter Charles L'Enfant, taken by Anthony Deans and John Dodson, appraisors, appointed by the Orphans' Court of the District of Columbia:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Three watches (one silver and two gold) . .             | \$30 |
| One compass . . . . .                                   | 10   |
| One pocket do . . . . .                                 | 1    |
| One pocket do . . . . .                                 | 1    |
| One lot of surveying instruments and<br>books . . . . . | 2    |
| One lot of maps . . . . .                               | 1    |

(Exhibits of J. D. Morgan's paper on L'Enfant.)

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#### EXHIBIT B.

(Letter of Charles L'Enfant.)

**Extract from letter to Moses Young, Consul-General for the United States of America to Madrid:**

# **L'Enfant's Long and Unsuccessful Fight for Full and Just Monetary Recognition by Congress.**

| Additional pay for planning and constructing Public Buildings at Washington. | Congress. | Session. | Page Journal. | Date Report.   | Nature of Report. | No. of Bill. | How Disposed of by House.                 | How Disposed of by Senate. | Date of Act of Congress. |
|--|-----------|----------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| L'Enfant Nature or object of claim.  | 6         | 2        | 738           | Dec. 7, 1800.  | Adverse.          |              | Rejected.                                 |                            |                          |
| P. C.  | 6         | 2        | 807           |                |                   |              | Discharged.                               |                            |                          |
| "  | 7         | 1        | 19            | April 15, 1802 | Adverse.          |              | Postponed.                                |                            |                          |
| "  | 7         | 2        | 259           | Feb. 17, 1803. | Favorable.        |              | Referred to } Committee of } whole House. |                            |                          |
| "  | 8         | 1        | 444           | Dec. 14, 1903. | Favorable.        |              | Referred to } Committee of } whole House. |                            |                          |
| "  | 9         | 2        | 563           |                |                   |              |   |                            |                          |
| "  | 11        | 2        | 120           | April 27, 1810 | Favorable.        | 143          | Passed.                                   | Passed.                    | Approved May 1, 1810.    |
| "  | 11        | 3        | 469           |                |                   |              | Discharged.                               |                            |                          |
| "  | 12        | 3        | 660           |                |                   |              |   |                            |                          |
| " Pay for planning City.   | 18        |          |               | In Senate.     |                   |              |   |                            |                          |

2nd Session, 6th Congress in Senate December 11th, 1800. — A memorial of Pierre Charles L'Enfant for compensation in planning City of Washington and supervising Public Buildings, presented by Senator Langdon.

"I; at the onset on that unfortunate business had fortune, friends and relations, who generously supplied all my wants—they are no more—all have perished and with them my fortune and friends. I was not then in the habit of keeping tavern company. I kept a house, servants and horses and was obliged to have carried all my wants in the (woods)? I moreover made frequent journeys to Phila. to consult with the President on my business. \* \* \* I merely mention the fact of the plunder of my office, papers, etc. to make manifest the difficulty of proving how considerable were the quantity of detail plans of the grand project and how the correspondence on the subject was also lost.

"At that time too the particular plan and copper plates by me prepared for engraving in the month of August '91 in Phila. had (by reason of the multiplicity of my other avocations at Washington) been unavoidably delayed and lodged in the best place of safety, into the hands of the President as is shown in documents No. 1. But although thus protected a number of my drawing copies had been made therefrom without my knowledge, such as were seen in both houses of Congress hanging on the Walls in December '91. Others were sent to Europe, viz, to Portugal and even to Petersburg in Russia. The Commissioners by means of an agent at Phil. in a surreptitious way procured the aforesaid plan prepared for engraving as shown by document No. —, and having effected the engraving prevailed on the President himself to cause the publication whereby having obtained the number of copies they wanted and becoming ultimately possessed of the copper plate they deemed themselves disengaged from the obligation of paying me the value of 10000 copies, which they had before in an affected manner requested

of me as the document No. —, which No. proves. \* \* \*

"I found myself also deprived of considerable emoluments from the sale of the map of the city and not only my right to the exclusive privilege was rendered null, but the obliteration of my name from the title of the publication as the engraved plan itself will show, deprived me of the reputation of having originated the plan of the established city, now the accepted seat of the United States government. \* \* \* This surely I cannot believe was either done or permitted to be done by the President Wn. and although the Comns. have represented it so, I cannot imagine it possible that the President's remembrance of the difficulty and magnitude of my labor and his former sense of my right to the exclusive privilege of publishing the map of the city could have become extinct, so very immediately as at the instant when the purpose for which he had hurried on the establishment of the city was so eminently assured by the indefatigability of my zeal and the liberality of my supplies of the greater part if not of the whole of the expense incurred.

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#### EXHIBIT C.

(Letter from Jas. Duane, Sec., to Major L'Enfant.)

New York Office of Mayoralty 13<sup>th</sup> Octr. 1789.

Sir:

It is with very great pleasure that I present to you the enclosed Testimonial of your distinguished merit and services; in behalf; and by the unanimous order of the Corporation. While the Hall exists it will exhibit a most respectable monument of your eminent Talents as well as of the munificence of the citizens. With my

*J. D. Morgan—Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant. 127*

best wishes for your happiness and prosperity, I have  
the Honor to be—with great esteem,

Sir

Your most obedient servant,

JAS. DUANE, *Sec.*

Major L'Enfant.

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EXHIBIT D.

(Letter from D. Humphreys to Major L'Enfant.)

Sir:

Mrs Washington having postponed an engagement  
she had for Saturday next; is desirous of seeing the  
Federal Building on that day.—I have; therefore;  
taken the liberty of informing you; and of inquiring  
the hour which will be most convenient; in all respects;  
for making the visit.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedt. and

Most humble servt.

D. HUMPHREYS.

Thursday Mornng

11th June 1789.

Major L'Enfant.

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EXHIBIT E.

(Letter from Alexander Hamilton to Major L'Enfant.)

May 24th 1791.

My dear Sir:

I received in due time your letter of the 8th of April;  
an early acknowledgment of which has been postponed  
by the hurry of business.

I thank you much for the full communication you have made me concerning the intended seat of Government, and will be obliged by a continuance of your observations and such further information as the progress of your operations may render interesting.

You will not forget I hope the devices for the Coin. As soon as your imagination shall have fixed upon anything I shall be glad to know it.

With very great regards,  
I remain always Yr. friend,  
& obed. Ser.

A. HAMILTON.

Major L'Enfant.

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EXHIBIT F.

(Copy of promissory note from Robert Morris to L'Enfant.)

On demand I promise to transfer to Mr. L'Enfant or order, Twelve shares of the stock of the Bank of the United States for value Received. Philada. Octo. 22d. 1794.

ROBT. MORRIS.

12 Shares.

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EXHIBIT G.

(Directions to send certain materials to Fort Washington to be delivered to Maj. L'Enfant, signed James Monroe.)

On Monday 19th to be sent to Major L'Enfant Fort Washington.

50 men with 15 or 20 wheelbarrows—spades and pick axes and a number of good axes. Carts will be wanted hereafter.

Timber will also be wanted for the work and some carpenters and masons and about 20000 Brick, some rough stone and lime of which a note will be given by Major L'Enfant.

Sept. 15th 1814

Signed JAS. MONROE.

Major Marsteller.

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EXHIBIT II 1.

(Copy of appointment of Major L'Enfant to the professorship of the art of engineering in the Military Academy of the U. S.)

War Department, July 7th, 1812.

Sir

YOU are hereby notified that you have been appointed Professor of the Art of Engineering in the Military Academy of the United States

On receipt of this letter you will please communicate to this department your acceptance or non-acceptance of said appointment; and in case of acceptance remain for orders at your present place of residence.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

W. EUSTIS.

Peter Charles L'Enfant,  
P. A. E. Washington.

(L'Enfant's comment)

Unaccepted but not rejected—P. C. L'Ent.



**EXHIBIT H 2.**

(Professor of Engineering, West Point.)

17th July, 1812.

Dear Sir:

I have this moment recd. your letter. I have not time to give you an answer on the several subjects to which it relates. My earnest advice to you is to accept the appointment conferred on you by the govt. It will deprive you of no claim which you now have, and provide you an honorable station, and support. Your creditors have no prospect in your present situation. This appointment may afford some hope. My wish therefore is that you accept it. You might write a letter to the secretary at war, and to the president, stating that more active service was desired, and enter into all the considerations which you think proper, but do not decline this appointment.

With regard yours,

JAS. MONROE.

Major L'Enfant.

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**EXHIBIT I.**

(Letter from Thos. Jefferson to Maj. L'Enfant.

Philadelphia, Apr. 10. 1791.

Sir:

I am favored with your letter of the 4th inst. and in compliance with your request I have examined my papers and found the plans of Frankfort on the Mayne, Carlsruhe, Amsterdam, Strasberg, Paris, Orleans, Bordeaux, Lyons, Montpellier, Marseilles, Turin and Milan, which I send in a roll by this post. They

are on a large and accurate scale. \* \* \* \* \*  
I am happy that the President has left the planning  
of the town in such good hands and have no doubt it  
will be done to general satisfaction. \* \* \* \* \*

Your most obedt. humble servant,

TH. JEFFERSON.

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EXHIBIT J.

(Letter of Thomas Jefferson to Maj. L'Enfant.)

Philadelphia, Aug. 18, 1791.

Sir:

The President has understood for some time past  
that you were coming on to Philadelphia and New  
York. \* \* \* \* \*

A person applied to me the other day on the subject  
of engraving a Map of the Federal territory. I ob-  
served to him that if yourself or *Mr. Ellicot* chose to  
have this done, you would have the best right to it.  
\* \* \* \* \*

I am with much esteem—Sir

Your very humble servant,

TH. JEFFERSON.

(L'Enfant's comment:)

“What right could this man have thereto.”

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EXHIBIT K.

(Letter from the Commissioners of the District of Co-  
lumbia to L'Enfant.)

George Town 9 Septemr. 1791.

Sir.

We have agreed that the Federal District shall be  
called “The Territory of Columbia” and the Federal

City "The City of Washington" the Title of the Map will therefore be "A Map of the City of Washington in the Territory of Columbia."

We have also agreed the streets be named alphabetically one way and numerically the other, the former divided into North and South Letters, the latter East and West Numbers from the Capitol.

Major Ellicot with proper assistance will immediately take and soon furnish you with soundings of the Western Branch to be inserted in the Map; we expect he will also furnish you with the Direction of a proposed post-road which we wish noticed in the map.

\* \* \* \* \*

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#### EXHIBIT L.

(Letter of Andrew Ellicott to Maj. L'Enfant.)

Territory of Columbia, Sept. 12th, 1791.

Dear Sir:

Messrs Jefferson and Madison left this place on Friday last, they appeared well pleased with the plan of the City and the country which it covers. The Commissioners broke up last Saturday after sitting several days. \* \* \* \* \* I expected some directions from them respecting the different places where the lots should be laid off; but received none—on that head I am at a loss—\* \* \* \* \* I hope you will be with us soon, our family all send their respects to you.

I am Dr. Sir,  
Your real friend,  
ANDW. ELLICOTT.

Major L'Enfant.

EXHIBIT M.

(Letter from Tobias Lear to Maj. L'Enfant.)

Philadelphia, October 12th 1791.

Dear Sir:

Altho I know the present must be a very busy moment for you; yet I have ventured to request the favor of you to purchase a few lots in the City of Washington at the approaching sale, if it can be done agreeably to the following terms.

I am desirous of obtaining a lot for myself in a pleasant and agreeable part of the city, provided the price should not exceed five hundred dollars for the lot. The particular spot I must leave to your choice, for I am not enough acquainted with the ground to determine upon that. Some friends of mine of Massachusetts have applied to me to obtain for them some lots if it should be in my power to do it. \* \* \* \*

The water lots on the Eastern Branch Northeast of the entrance of the canal appear from the draft, to be best for that purpose; but of this you will be better able to judge than I am. \* \* \*

With great respect & esteem

Dear Sir

Your most obedt. serv.

TOBIAS LEAR.

Maj. L'Enfant.

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EXHIBIT N.

(Autograph copy of a letter of Maj. L'Enfant to David Burns.)

George Town, december 11nth, 1791.

Dear Sir:

Agreeable to your request of yesterday the Square

on which you desire to erect a house will be **marked so**  
as to enable you to proceed as conveniently and as im-  
mediately as you please in digging the foundation.

\* \* \* \* \*

This square marked, in the map 171 will border on  
one of the main diagonal avenues to the President's  
palace; it will have a front on part of the square to  
that palace and will also view on the grand park & on  
many of the principal improvements—so it will be  
worth your attention to have the house of a proper  
dimension of fronts and in every respect combine com-  
fortably with the plan of the intended improvements.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have the honor to be dear Sir

Your most humble &

Obedt. servant

P. C. L'ENFANT.

Mr. david burns, Esq.

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#### EXHIBIT O.

Memoranda\*

\*"Observations explanatory of the plan of the city  
by Major L'Enfant."

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#### EXHIBIT P.

\*"Estimate of expense for men, provisions and ma-  
terials necessary for conducting the operations in the  
Federal City for 1792."

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\*The originals of Exhibits O and P in full are in possession of  
James Dudley Morgan, M. D.

EXHIBIT Q 1.

(L'Enfant invited to live with Wm. Dudley Digges.)

Green Hill, Febry. 4th, 1824.

Dear Sir:

I duly received your letter by George Gray and have to inform you that it would give me pleasure if you would come up and take your residence here. I have furnished George with what articles you may stand in need of at present; you will also be able to visit the city house at your ease and as often as you may please in order to attend to your business before Congress. I wish you would have all the papers and whatever you may think of any value packed up, so that when you leave Warburton, there will be nothing of importance belonging to me left behind. I shall send my wagon down again in a few days and at that time will send you a horse to ride up. I will also write you again. George Gray will have a list of the principal articles to be brought up. You may rest assured, Dear Sir, that I have considered your situation and know that it has been an unpleasant one; if a hearty welcome to Greenhill will make it more pleasant, I can assure you have it from all my family. As to the Blacksmith, he is hired to Mr. Dyer. With compliments to my Aunt and John, I am, Dear Sir,

Your obt. servt.,

To

WM. D. DIGGES.

Major L'Enfant,

Warburton,

Per George Gray.

EXHIBIT Q 2.

(Letter from William Dudley Digges to Maj. L'Enfant  
at Warburton.)

Dear Sir:

I send you by Mr. Camden a mule which I hope you find acceptable—I wish you would send up by the wagon whatever you think, can be of any service to us here and what is not actually needed by my Aunt. I think you had better come up and take your quarters with me. Here you are welcome and your coming will give me great pleasure—any mode of conveyance that you will prefer you can be accommodated with. \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

I am dear Sir,

Your obt. servt.,

WM. DUDLEY DIGGES.

Green Hill, Md.

March 15th, 1824.

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EXHIBIT R.

(Testimonials to Maj. L'Enfant, Signed by all except  
two, of the Original Proprietors.)

Georgetown 9 March 1792.

Dear Sir:

I believe every Proprietor of lands within the federal City except two have signed the letter which I have now the pleasure to enclose. They send their sentiments respecting your return, or rather respecting their wishes on that subject, through Mr. Walker to the President, by this nights Post. Copy whereof should you wish it, I can furnish you. The Proprie-

tors of land conceive they cannot give you sufficient evidence of their sense of your services and exertions, in promoting the growth of the city; and they are anxiously solicitous for your return, expecting every advantage from your zeal and judgment.

I am with esteem and regard,

Dr. Sir,

Your most obedt. Ser.

URIAH FORREST.

(Signatures and Extracts from Testimonials.)

Georgetown 9 March 1792.

Dear Sir:

We find by communication from Philadelphia, that there is too much reason to apprehend that the city of Washington will lose the benefit of your future services—a circumstance which we lament extremely, not only from regard to our own interests, which we believe no other man so well qualified to promote by promoting the public object, but from a sense of justice to yourself—for we well know that your time and the whole powers of your mind have been for months entirely devoted to the arrangements in the city, which reflect so much honor on your taste and your judgment.

We still hope that some mode of accommodation may be devised to admit of your return on principles not derogatory to your own feelings nor injurious to the city. The Commissioners we trust whatever misunderstandings may have arisen, will be very much disposed (for they know and acknowledge your talents) to leave you without control, in all those things in which you would wish to be uncontrolled. \* \* \*

At all events accept this testimony of our sense of your merits and of the obligations we owe you as per-



sons much interested in the city of Washington.

With respect and esteem, we are Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

ROBERT PETERS,  
JOHN DAVIDSON,  
SAM DAVIDSON,  
JAS. M. LINGAN,  
ABRAHAM YOUNG,  
BEN STODDERT,  
URIAH FORREST,  
WM. KING,  
WM. PROUT,  
AVERTON CAM,  
GEORGE WALKER,  
DAVID BURNES,  
ELPHAZ DOUGLAS.

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EXHIBIT S.

(George Washington to Maj. L'Enfant.)

Philadelphia Novr. 28th. 1791.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 21st instant came duly to hand, as did one of the same date from Mr. Carroll of Duddington on the same subject. A copy of my answer to the latter is enclosed by which you will perceive I have proposed an accommodation. As a similar case cannot happen again (Mr. Carroll's house having been begun before the Federal District was fixed upon) no precedent will be established by yielding a little in the present instance; and it will always be found sound policy to conciliate the good will rather than provoke the enmity of any man where it can be ac-

completed without much difficulty, inconvenience or loss. Indeed the more harmoniously this or any other business is conducted the faster it will progress and the more satisfactory will it be, should Mr. Carroll adopt the first alternative mentioned in my letter to him—and there is no pressing cause for taking the building down this Winter, the materials will be less liable to injury by standing as they are and less apt to be stolen than if they should be taken down before the period should arrive for re-erection.

As there is a suspension at present of the business which took Mr. Ellicot's brother to Georgia there will be no occasion for his proceeding thither, until he shall receive further advice from me, or from the Department of War. But it is my earnest wish and desire that he would give every aid in his power to prepare for a large sale of lots in the Spring, agreeably to the sentiments which have been communicated to the Commissioners;—and it is moreover exceedingly to be wished that correct engravings of the city could be had and properly disseminated (at least) throughout the United States before such sale.

A great pressure of business at this time, prevents me from adding more than that I am with esteem and regard,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedt. Serv.,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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EXHIBIT T 1.

(Affidavit of Major L'Enfant in regard to the loss of his papers, etc.)

Peter Charles L'Enfant being duly sworn deposes and saith: That towards the latter end of December

1791 being then employed by the President of the United States in the affairs of the City of Washington, he went to Philadelphia in order to consult with the President relative to the business entrusted to him. That during his absence and without apprising him of it, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia dismissed the agent and workmen employed by this deponent, refused them their due pay: that this proceeding was a breach of convention and stipulation with the Commissioners prior to his departure \* \* \* \* That immediately when the persons so employed were thus dismissed all the several papers, drawings, manuscripts, directions, everything relative to the projected work of the city at the time in the hands of the surveyors, or as was left at the several offices was seized upon and detained by the Commissioners or their servants. The trunk and several boxes containing books also collections of very costly engravings models of architecture, other plans of this deponent's own drawings for the Capitol and the President houses, these and all matters which he had in reserve such as preparatory designs for the city canal, for bridges, market-houses, the great walk and gardens and number of other sketches of projects for enterprise \* \* \* \* and vouchers for monies expended by him in his surveys while acting under the order of the President, were carried away from the place of his abode as this deponent has been informed and verily believes to the store of Messrs Cabott & Green and afterwards from the said store to the house of a Mr. Davidson; that his said trunk and boxes having been broken open all his papers, vouchers, plans and instruments, etc. were taken away and he has never recovered any part of them excepting one of the proposed plan of the city of Washington which

he received from Mr. Davidson \* \* \* \* \* that the articles lost were of great value to him besides the real cost and that including the traveling and other expenses to which he was subjected in the discharge of his duty this deponent did expend of his own money eight thousand dollars at least exclusive of the monies with which himself and agent were chargeable at the time of the resignation of his employment. \* \* \* \*

P. CHARLES L'ENFANT.

Washington Feby. 8th, 1803.

Personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the justices of the peace for the County of Washington, District of Columbia, Peter Charles L'Enfant, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of the Almighty God that the foregoing statement is just and true to the best of his knowledge.

WILLIAM THORNTON.

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EXHIBIT T 2.

(Letter of Samuel Davidson to Major L'Enfant, sworn to before Thomas Corcoran.)

Georgetown 16th January 1802.

Major L'Enfant having lately called upon me for information and attestation respecting his property left in Georgetown at the time of his giving up the affairs of the city of Washington \* \* \* \* \* I do now solemnly declare to the best of my knowledge, memory and belief that some time in the year 1793, Mr Francis Cabott told me that he caused to be carried to the brick house belonging to Mr. Thomas Beall in this town then in the occupation of a certain Mr.

George Leigh as a Tavern, and where the said Cabott and myself then had a room and boarded; certain trunk or trunks, box or boxes, said to contain Major L'Enfant's books and papers. That no part of them was ever placed under my care, that I never saw them or any part of their contents except the first plan exhibited by Gen. Washington, of the city of Washington, which plan Cabott brought into my room and requested my care of it, and which plan I did about two or three years ago deliver into Major L'Enfant's own hand, equally as safe as when first left with me. That some time prior to this meeting with Major L'Enfant, I received a letter from him requesting me to forward to him by the Stage, his property so left by Mr. Cabott  
\* \* \* \* \*

SAM DAVIDSON.

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EXHIBITS T 3 AND U 3.

Mr. Ellicott returns his compliments to Major L'Enfant—the Plan he requests is with a young gentleman who has undertaken to do the writing.

Friday afternoon.

Major L'Enfant.

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Copy of a Letter from Benja Ellicott, dated  
Georgetown, January 27th, 1794.

To P. Ch. L'Enfant.

Enclosed you will find a letter of mine directed to the Commissioners requesting a Map which I procured of you in Jan. 7, 1792, it was taken away privately or rather stolen from the person with whom I left it. The Commissioners now refuse giving it up alledging that it is their property and that you are owing them money.

However if you will either continue your claim or assign your right of it to me, I have no doubt but they will be defeated in a law Suit now depending on that account, I am, &c.

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EXHIBIT C 1.

(Letter of James R. Dermott to Maj. L'Enfant.)

Georgetown January 24, 1794.

Sir:

Conscious that a man of honor will never deny an injured person, that information which comes within his knowledge in order to assist him to wipe away calumnies which may reflect on his honor and reputation; on this ground I direct your attention and answer to the following queries: First, did you in January 1792 deliver to W. Benjamin Ellicott in trust to be returned to you a manuscript plan of the city of Washington of the same construction as you intended to have laid off the city: if you have please to describe it, what scale and if it was complete. Second, does that public appropriation delineated on the engraved plan of the city south of square No. 518 and on P. plan and which is intended for the Judiciary Department, accord with where you intended to have placed it. You'll excuse the liberty I as a stranger take with you when I inform you my character has been traduced by W. Andrew and Benjamin Ellicott, two characters perhaps experience has taught you to know. \* \* \*

Sir, Your obedient servant,

JAMES R. DERMOTT.

EXHIBITS U 2 AND V 1.

(Autograph copy of a letter written by L'Enfant to Tobias Lear.)

Phila., February 17, 1792.

My dear Sir:

Apprehending there may be some misconstruction of my late conduct and views as they respect a delay which has happened in the execution of a map of the city upon a scale suited to engraving and being so well convinced that enemies are not wanting through envy or base design of any other nature falsely to represent (more especially at this time) my every transaction as well as the motive by which I uniformly have been actuated, I take the liberty to address to you my ideas upon that subject which at a convenient season I request you will communicate to the President. I do this with more cheerfulness as it is the last letter I propose to write interfering in matters relative to the City until some system or arrangement is formed by the President whereby with certainty I may know in what manner in future the business is to be conducted.

To obtain this map to which I allude as correct as possible I had some time previous to my leaving Georgetown requested Mr. Benjamin Ellicott should delineate on paper all the work which had been done in the city, which being accurately measured and permanently laid down on the ground I intended to make the basis of the drawing of the remainder from the original plan, and upon a reduced scale for engraving - this was accordingly done; but though I will not say that it was intentionally withheld from me, not having had it in my possession, prevented me immediately on my arrival here to have the reduced draw-

ing begun according to my intention and promise to the President.

These circumstances and the difficulty of meeting immediately with a good draughtsman and an engraver to undertake the work forced a delay, but a desire to comply with the President's wish in obtaining as soon as possible that engraving, finally determined me to request the assistance of Mr. Benjamin Ellicott, who though not professional in drawing I conceived to be the most proper person to prepare the work in that part, more especially which himself and Mr. Roberdeau had with accuracy laid down upon the ground—the more to facilitate this I gave him the sketch which you had taken from the former undertaker of the plate, begging him to finish as much as he could in pencil only without the assistance of a large map which I had at that time in use, and by which we together would correct and compleat the whole—I daily attended the progress of the business in all its stages until Mr. Andrew Ellicott gave me to understand that he was ordered by Mr. Jefferson to attend himself to that business in consequence of which he had already agreed with an engraver, this determined me to concern myself no more about it being confident that the meaning of Mr. Jefferson's order to Mr. Ellicott could not be to publish the plan without my knowledge or concurrence, and convinced that it would not be completely finished without recourse to the large map in my possession.\* I conceived it would be but proper to wait until I was called upon by him to review and correct the whole—In this manner passed some days, in the mean time, having had an application from Mr. Young, publisher of the monthly magazine for a plan of the city upon a reduced scale to place in the next number which indeed I had given



him reason to expect, I directed him to apply to Mr. Andrew Ellicott, who upon the application refused his assistance, Mr. Young informing me that his engraver would soon be engaged for Mr. Ellicott on the plate for the city, induced me to go to his house and see how far the draft was advanced. This draft to my great surprise I found in the state in which it now is most unmercifully spoiled and altered from the original plan to a degree indeed evidently tending to disgrace me and ridicule the very undertaking—inclined as I am to persuade myself this could not be the intention, and strange as it may appear that a gentleman to whom in every instance I have conducted myself with the greatest candour, and in whom I always have confided as a friend should, harbour a design so inconsistent, as to endeavour to destroy the reputation of one whose contempt for the little machinations of envy, has left him unguarded against the treachery of false friends—was it necessary it would not be here out of place to relate circumstances which in various periods when Mr. Ellicott engaged in the execution of the plan, led me to fear ill consequences might arise from an apparent desire to suggest ideas of his own, gradually to deviate from the original plan, which would tend to destroy that harmony and combination of the different parts with the whole, to effect which had been the chief object of my labour and concern—whither this inclination to originate, or improve upon my plan, can be attributed to inattention to the difficulties to be encountered in endeavoring to correct errors, which such innovation would necessarily create, or whither drawn by the allurements of party who are unconcerned in the complete success of the plan, to their interest. Certain it is that he has been induced to hazard opinions, and to

engage himself more forward to effect objects, which besides the impossibility to accomplish, he ought the less to have done, being not willing to reflect upon the conduct of Mr. Ellicott, nor of any individual farther than a simple relation of facts, from which conjectures may be formed in vindication of my real motives, which are none other than those arising from an anxious concern for the interest of the establishment. I shall close this by requesting you for a moment to think of the consequences that must result from offering to the publick an erroneous map—laying aside these delicate feelings so difficult for me to express in points where reputation and honour are most evidently concerned—to all this I should be more indifferent did I not with regret foresee the gratification to two or three individuals, that would result from so imprudent a measure, who desire no better foundation for contention and clamour than the publick appearance of a plan deviating in any degree from that by which the operations in the city have been governed.—I have the honor to be,

Your obedt. servant,

P. C. L'ENFANT.

P. S.—I this day sent to Mr. Andrew Ellicott for the plan together with other drafts necessary for me to redress the error notwithstanding his proceeding I was inclined to do to accelerate the engraving. But his having declined sending me that draft set it out of my power still to effect the object to my wishes and determined me immediately to address to you the foregoing.

NOTE.—“But by the manuscript stolen they got *all* that was wanted.”

EXHIBIT V 2.

(L'Enfant's written statement about engraving the map.)

At that time too the particular plan & copperplates by me prepared for engraving in the month of Aug. 91 in Phila. had (by reason of the multiplicity of my other avocations at Washington) been unavoidably delayed & lodged as in the best place of safety, into the hands of the Prest. But altho thus protected a number of drawing copies had been made therefrom without my knowledge, such as were seen in both houses of congress hanging on the walls in Dec. 91; others were sent to Europe, viz, to Portugal and even to Petersburg in Russia. The comrs also by means of an agent at Phila in a surreptitious way procured the aforesaid plan prepared for engraving.

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EXHIBIT W 1.)

(See L'Enfant's note at bottom of this letter of Jefferson.)

Philadelphia, Feb. 22, 1792.

Sir:

The advance of the season begins to require that the plans for the buildings and other public works at the Federal city, should be in readiness, & the persons engaged who are to carry them into execution, the circumstances which have lately happened have produced an uncertainty whether you may be disposed to continue your services there. I am charged by the President to say that your continuance would be desirable to him; & at the same time to add that the law

requires it should be in subordination to the Commissioners. They will of course receive your propositions, decide on the plans to be pursued from time to time, & submit them to the President to be approved or disapproved, & when returned with his approbation, the Commissioners will put into your hands the execution of such parts as shall be arranged with you, & will doubtless see from time to time that these objects, & no others, are pursued. It is not pretended to *stipulate* here however the mode in which they shall carry on the execution. They alone can do that, & their discretion, good sense & zeal are a sufficient security that those whom they employ will have as little cause to be dissatisfied with the manner as the matter of their orders. To this, it would be injustice to them not to add, as a motive the more in this particular instance, the desire they have ever manifested to conform to the judgment & wishes of the President. The same disposition will ensure an oblivion of whatever disagreeable may have arisen heretofore on a perfect understanding being established as to the relation to subsist in future between themselves & those they employ, in the conduct of the works. I must beg the favor of your answer whether you will continue your services on the footing expressed in this letter; and am with esteem, Sir,

Your most obedt. humble servt.,

THOS. JEFFERSON.

Major L'Enfant.

**Note:**

“In the letter to the President the 14th of January, it will show I was not behind in measure to determine a speedy renewal of the work.” L'Enfant.

EXHIBIT W 2.

(L'Enfant declines to serve longer and "then is discharged.")

Philadelphia, Feb. 27, 1792.

Sir:

From your letter received yesterday in answer to my last, and your declarations in conversation with Mr. Lear, it is understood that you absolutely decline acting under the authority of the present commissioners. If this understanding of your meaning be right; I am instructed by the President to inform you that notwithstanding the desire he has entertained to preserve your agency in the business, the condition upon which it is to be done is inadmissible, & your services must be at an end.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedt, humble servt.

THOS. JEFFERSON.

Majr. L'Enfant.

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EXHIBIT X.

(L'Enfant's first letter from Georgetown to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson.)

Friday March 11—1791.

Sir:

I have the honor of informing you of my arrival at this place where I could not possibly reach before Wednesday last and very late in the evening after having travelled part of the way on foot and part on horse back leaving the broken stage behind.

On arriving I made it my first care immediately to wait on the mayor of the town in conforming with the direction which you gave me—he appeared to be much

surprised and he assured me he had received no previous notice of my coming nor any instruction relating to the business I was sent upon—however next day—yesterday morning—he made me a kind offer of his assistance in procuring for me three or four men to attend me in the surveying and this being the only thing I was in need of every matter has been soon arranged. I am only at present to regret that an heavy rain and thick mist which has been incessant ever since my arrival here has put an insuperable obstacle to my wish of proceeding immediately to the survey. Should the weather continue bad as there is every appearance it will I shall be much at a loss how to make a plan of the ground you have pointed out to me and have it ready for the President at the time when he is expected at this place. I see no other way if by Monday next the weather does not change, but that of making a rough draft as accurat as may be obtain by viewing the ground in riding over it on horse back, as I have already done yesterday through the rain to obtain a knowledge of the whole. I put from the eastern branch towards Georgetown up the heights and down along side of the bank of the main river and along side of Goose and Rock Creeks as far up as their springs.

As far as I was able to judge through a thick fog I passed on many spots which appeared to me really beautiful and which seem to dispute with each other who command. In the most extensive prospect on the water the gradual rising of the ground from Carrollborough toward the Ferry Road, the level and extensive ground from there to the bank of the Potomack as far as Goose Creek present a situation most advantageous, to run streets and prolong them on grand and far distant point of view the water running

from spring at some distance into the creeks, appeared also to me possible to be conducted without much labour so as to form pounds for watering every part of that spot. The remainder part of the ground toward Georgetown is more broken--it may afford pleasant seats, but altho' the bank of the river between the two creeks can command as grand a prospect as any of the other spots it seems to be less commendable for the establishment of a city not only because the level surface it presents is but small but because the heights from behind Georgetown absolutely command the whole.

No proof of the ground between the eastern branch and Georgetown can be say to be of a commanding nature, on the contrary it appear at first sight as being itself surrounded, however in advancing toward the eastern branch these heights seem to sink as the waves of a tempestuous sea and when considering the intended city on that grand scale on which it ought to be planed, it will appear that the only height which would unavoidably.

In it a small town may easily be comprehended in the limit of such a one as is rendered by a proper management in the appropriation of the building that may be thereon erected, a means of protection and of security.

Such the few remarks which I have been able to make in a journey when the badness of the weather much impeded my progress. I therefore hope for your indulgence in hazarding to communicate them to you. I have the honor to be,

Sir, With very great respect,

P. C. L'ENFANT.

The Honorable Thomas Jefferson,  
Secretary of State.

EXHIBIT XX.

(L'Enfant mentioned as Chief of Engineers.)

Sir:

It may therefore be proper to make an application to Major L'Enfant, & forward it, with his answer, to the Board, stating whether "the note of hand you have to Mr Francis Cabot, for £34,00.0 on account expressly of Major L'Enfant, then Engineer of the City," was by his order, or not; also copies of the papers "that show you were acting under written and positive orders from (him) the then chief Engineer"; if by his order, or according to his existing Engagement, I shall lay your claims before the Board, and am confident that Justice will be done to you.

I find that no compensation has yet been by Major L'Enfant, for the great exertion genius and talents. The Board, I am convinced, will consider his claims with attention, for they admit he has done much. The offer made to him by our Predecessors, he thought inadequate. I wish it could be known what he would consider as a compensation. I write now in my private capacity, seeking information for a future Day.

I am, Sir,

with respect,

and good wishes, Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM THORNTON.

City of Washington,

June 20th, 1795.

Mr. Roberdeau,

No. 159 Arch Street,

Philadelphia.



EXHIBIT XXX.

(Money due L'Enfant.)

Superintendents Office,  
Washington, 14th February, 1803.

Sir:

I had the honor, late on Saturday Evening, of receiving your letter of that day, requesting to know whether the Lot and five hundred Guineas, offered to P. C. L'Enfant by the late Commissioners of the City of Washington, for his Services to said City, are now ready for him in case he should incline to accept them.

By the Act of Congress of last session, intituled "An Act to abolish the Board of Commissioners of the City of Washington and for other purposes," the Superintendent is directed to pay into the Treasury of the United States all money received by him, after paying the Debts of the Commissioners contracted in their capacity as such. If the lot and five hundred Guineas in question which were offered by the late Commissioners, and their successors also to Mr. L'Enfant, and by him rejected, in both instances, be now considered as within the definition of a Debt contracted by the Commissioners it will be paid by the Superintendent as soon as the funds of the City, (which are inadequate at present) will enable him to do so; but when that will be the case he cannot say with any certainty. If, however, the Superintendent should be called on to make payment without the further expression of the will of Congress on the subject, he is not at present free from doubt as to his duty or authority under the Act of Congress before mentioned, and the circumstances connected with the case.

With regard to Mr. L'Enfant's claim for money advanced to Labourers, which have not been reimbursed,

I am unable to speak with certainty, but I believe such a claim was never exhibited against the Commissioners, certainly not to my knowledge—and if the claim be just I think it must have been his own fault that he did not receive payment long since with various other sums which appear to have been paid to him for expenses incurred on acct. of the City.

I am at a loss to conceive of an occasion where it could have been necessary for Mr. L'Enfant to have advanced money to the public Labourers.—At the time he was engaged in the affairs of the City the Commissioners had perhaps from one to two hundred yearly Labourers who were regularly paid by the proper Officer of the City, and, with the Commissioners' approbation, were always subject to the commands of Mr. L'Enfant for the proper and necessary uses of the City. It may, however, be possible that in some of the cases of dispute and collision of authority which it appears arose between the Commissioners and Mr. L'Enfant he may have incurred expenses and advanced monies which the Commissioners may not have thought proper to sanction, and may have refused to reimburse.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Sir

Your mo. Obt. Servt.

THOMAS MONROE.

Honorable

John C. Smith,

Chairman of the Committee of Claims,

Congress.

Note. ("Not a cent on such account." L'Enfant.)

EXHIBIT Y.

(Draft of his Map in Philadelphia.)

Philadelphia, October 6, 1791.

Sir:

By the post of today I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 3d instant; and agreeably to your request, I immediately called upon Mr. Pigal, who, to my great surprise & mortification, informed me that he had not been able to get the plate of copper for the engraving of the federal city, till two days ago, and, that, in consequence thereof, it would not be in his power to have a single plate struck off sooner than the last of this month. I pointed out to him, in the strongest manner, the great disappointment, and probable detriment which would be caused by his not having fulfilled his engagement. He appeared fully sensible of it, and expressed the utmost concern at it; but protested that it was not a fault of his; he said he has spared no pains to get a plate suitable for the business, and had been deceived in the time of having it prepared for him, altho' he had used every means in his power to get it in time. He put into my hands the enclosed letter for you, which he says is upon the subject, and requesting to have your large draft of the City, as he does not think that which he has is sufficiently accurate. I shall call upon him again in the morning and will press him, if it is possible to get some done from the draft which he has—and in almost any manner, before the sale, as I am sensible of the great inconvenience you will suffer by being disappointed. Nothing in my power to have it effected shall be left undone.

I am, Sir,

With great respect & esteem,

Your most Obedt. Servt.,

THOMAS LEAR.

To Major P. C. L'Enfant.

EXHIBIT Z.

(L'Enfant purchases a lot. Situated West side 17th St.  
I and K, N. W.)

AT a public Sale of Lots in the City of Washington, Peter Charles L'Enfant of Georgetown, Maryland, became purchaser of Lot number thirty in square number one hundred & twenty seven for the consideration of ninety-nine pounds Current Money of Maryland, on the terms and conditions published at the fame sale: And he hath accordingly paid one-fourth part of the said consideration money, and given Bond, with security, for the payment of the residue; on the payment whereof, with interest, according to the said Bond the said Peter Charles L'Enfant—or his assigns will be entitled to a conveyance in fee.

WM. JOHNSON,  
D. D. STUART,  
DANL. CARROLL,  
Commrs.

18th October, 1791.  
Square No. 127, Lot No. 30.

## A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF MAJOR ANDREW ELLICOTT.

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By Mrs. Sally Kennedy Alexander.

April, 1896.

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The name of Andrew Ellicott is so closely associated with the earliest history of the National Capital that any light which may be thrown upon his life should be of great interest.

Especially to those so fortunate as we, to live in a city unrivalled for beauty in our broad land, which result he was in part instrumental in securing.

Andrew Ellicott was descended from English ancestry, and was a member of the Society of Friends. His paternal grandfather, Andrew Ellicott, emigrated from England to America in 1731. One son, Andrew, came with him. His wife remained in England, and she and her husband never met after the first parting. Their devotion to one another remained unabated. She is represented as a woman of great goodness, intelligence and beauty, worthy of her husband, a man of high character in every respect, and one of nature's noblemen. The following quaint lines were written by her on the departure of husband and son for America:

Through rocks and sands,  
And enemies hands,  
And perils of the deep,  
Father and Son,  
From Collosson,  
The Lord preserve and keep.—1731.

Arriving in America they settled in Pennsylvania, purchasing one hundred and fifty acres of land in Bucks County. Joseph Ellicott, father of the subject of this sketch, and son of Andrew, who came from England, was distinguished as a mathematician. He made a visit to England in 1776, purchasing many valuable mathematical instruments. On his return he constructed a musical clock, the wonder of the day, and in this was assisted by his son Andrew, a lad of fifteen years. This clock was incased in mahogany in the shape of a four-sided pillar or column, about eight feet high, each side of which was neatly finished. On the capital of this pillar was the clock with four faces, it being designed to stand in the centre of the room or sufficiently distant from the wall to allow an observer to pass around it. On one face was represented the sun, moon, earth, and planets, all moving in their different orbits, as they do in the heavens. On another face were indicated the seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, and years, the years representing one century, all having their different hands, pointing to the true time. Also the image of the moon, by which its age and apparent light are registered. On the third face were indicated the names of twenty-four musical tunes, being favorite ones of the times before the American Revolution. In the center of this face is a pointer, which being placed against any named tune repeats it. The smaller cylinder played a tune every hour, and the larger one every three hours. The smaller one, before striking the hour, the larger cylinder after striking the hour. On the fourth face was to be seen through the glass the curious mechanism of the clock. This wonderful clock is now in possession of a member of the Evans family in New York. In the share he had in this work

Andrew early evinced a talent for that profession which so distinguished him in later years. He was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1754. His parents were Joseph and Judith Ellicott. He married Sarah Brown. In December, 1774 he removed with his family to Ellicott's Upper Mills. The history of the Ellicott family proves them to have been great benefactors to their age, by the important and useful inventions they made. He pursued, with the practical obligations of the day, his scientific studies. To astronomy he was especially devoted, and soon his unusual talent brought him into association with scientific men and membership in society for promotion of science. Perhaps a more detailed account of the Quaker progenitors of Andrew Ellicott may be of interest, as the scene of their busy life is in our immediate vicinity. Indeed, soon we will be able to take an electric car, and in possibly an hour, alight and enjoy a stroll along the beautiful, romantic and wooded banks of the Patapsco, whose solitudes the Ellicotts were the first to invade. Joseph and Judith Ellicott, in removing in 1774 to the banks of this wild river, took with them their nine children, and six orphan children of a deceased friend and former neighbor, William Evans.

Two extensive tracts of land were purchased, and mills built upon them. To one was given the name of Ellicott's Lower Mills, to the other Ellicott's Upper Mills. They also constructed a mill at Jones' Falls and established an iron foundry at Elk Ridge Landing. The upper mills, in a division, was assigned to Joseph Ellicott. The family mansion built by him yet remains. It had extensive gardens, both useful and ornamental, in which was a fish pond, constant flowing fountain, the water coming by an iron pipe from an

unfailing spring on high adjacent ground.\*

This place is now shorn of much of its former attraction. The writer, with her honored father, a descendant of the Ellicotts and inheritor of the old homestead, was passing the summer of 1868 in it, when the terrible flood of the Patapsco occurred and fifty lives were lost at Ellicott City. The water arose to the second floor of this old home and left a debris and deposit, which forever destroyed many of the attractive features of the place.

Martha E. Tyson, in her recollections written in 1861, says:

The officers and men of the troops of the King of France, the friend of our young Republic, were stationed a considerable time in Baltimore, in 1781, on their way from the head of Elk to Virginia. They made frequent excursions into the country around, in pursuit of small game, which was abundant in a region so recently a wilderness. They often extended their rambles to Ellicott's Upper Mills. A fine store had been built in 1775,—rich silks and satins and brocades were purchased in New York and Philadelphia, and shipped to Elk Ridge landing, thence to the Mills. These officers were frequent visitors at the store, and ladies from Baltimore, often took the trouble to ride some eleven miles to make purchases, and considered themselves well repaid for doing so. The family residence at Ellicott's Upper Mills was a very beautiful happy home, and the scene of many family pleasures and reunions. The plates and dishes used on the dinner table were a heavy metal, and kept bright as silver. They were purchased by Joseph Ellicott in London. In this house a hall was built for the musical clock.

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\* It appears that this was the first instance in this country of water being conveyed through underground conduits.



The side piazza overlooks the Patapsco, some two hundred feet distant, sparkling and singing merrily over its rocky bed as it moves between its banks, on one hand precipitous, and clothed in beautiful forest, the other with rich garden land along its length. The old Frederick turnpike passes immediately in front of the house, and is continued over the river by a gracefully-constructed bridge. Such was the home of Andrew Ellicott at one time. His accomplishment in the sciences of astronomy, and mathematics, did not permit him to remain long in the seclusion of Fountain-vale, as the place was called. Positions of honor were soon offered him, and the remaining years of his life were passed in scientific pursuits.\*

Although a member of the Society of Friends his loyalty to his Government was made conspicuous by Governor Johnston of Maryland, who commissioned him, in May, 1778 - Captain, then Major, of Elkridge Battalion of Militia, Ann Arundel county. In the year 1784 he ran the boundary line between the States of Pennsylvania and Virginia. In a letter to his wife, dated September 16, 1784,--he says, "On Monday next I shall leave this place Summit of Mt. Welcome, and begin to run the boundary line between Virginia and Pennsylvania. I am thinking every minute about you, and our dear children, and praying the Divine Ruler of the Universe, to take you under his care until my return, a meeting that would be more joyful to me than the greatest estate or superb title." His letters

\* Robert Patterson, afterward Vice-President of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, was the preceptor of his youth and in his (Andrew Ellicott's) journal of the survey of the Southern Boundary Line of U. S., 1797-1800, he addresses his astronomical and miscellaneous observations to him. "You are entitled to it from me in more particular manner as the preceptor of my youth and at all times my disinterested friend."

to his wife are always full of affection, and he writes again to her on November 19 of his arrival at Beesontown: "I find myself more rejoiced at the prospect of once more returning home, and enjoying the pleasures of domestic happiness. My ambition is nearly satisfied. I have without the interest of friends or my own application, been appointed to various posts. Nominated by the State of Virginia, one of the Commissioners, on this important occasion, applied to by Congress, to assist at the division of the New States, and presented by the University of Williamsburg in Virginia with the degree A. M." Arriving at Upper Ellicott's Mills late in November, he found his family in bad health, a son ill, who lingered until March of 1785. Owing to the sickly state of his family, he resolved to move to Baltimore, which he did in April, 1785, and resided on the east side of Liberty street, south of and near Saratoga street. In 1785 he was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania, jointly with David Rittenhouse and Andrew Porter, a commission to locate the Western boundary of that State. Their commission was dated at Philadelphia, May 5, 1785. They were accompanied on this expedition by his brother, Joseph Ellicott. In May, 1785, Andrew Ellicott visited Philadelphia, and spent some time with Mr David Rittenhouse. He writes in that year: "I went by particular invitation to spend the day with Dr. Franklin. I found him in his little room among his papers. He received me very politely and immediately entered into conversation about the Western country. His room makes a singular appearance, being filled with old philosophical Instruments, Papers, Boxes, Tables and Stools. About 10 o'clock he sat some water on the fire, and not being expert through his great age, I desired him to give me the pleasure of assisting him,

he thanked me, and replied that he ever made it a point to wait upon himself, and although he began to feel himself infirm, he was determined not to encourage his infirmities, by giving way to them. After the water was hot I observed his object was to shave himself, which operation he performed without a glass, and with great expedition. I asked him if he never employed a barber he answered 'no,' and continued nearly in the following words, 'I think happiness does not consist so much in particular pieces of good fortune that perhaps accidentally fall to man's lot, as to be able in his old age to do those little things which, was he unable to perform himself, would be done by others with a sparing hand.' Several foreigners of distinction dined with us, and about 9 o'clock in the evening took my leave of this venerable Nestor of America." Continuing on the 6th—in his diary, he writes of an episode which seems to have put him in a very bad humor. "Examined several book stores, while I was in one a macaroni looking fellow came in, and asked for some music, but not being able to find what he wanted, he swore the natives of this country had no kind of taste for the fine liberal arts. I conceived myself aimed at by the general reflection and asked him upon what principle he made such a general reflection, he answered I have now sought this town all over and am not able to find a particular piece of music. Perhaps Sir you are a Music Master? Yes Sir at your service. Upon my word Sir it is very extraordinary for a teacher of music, to pass general reflection upon all the natives of the United States. You who are only a Professor of one of the least of the polite arts, has ventured to condemn a whole continent for want of taste in the fine arts as you term them. If you had a genius for visiting our Seminaries of learning, and possessed of one

degree of candour, you would freely acknowledge your mistake. He saw my ill nature and left me to my own reflection." In this same "journal" he expresses in the following year his love for his "native country," and regrets at the divided and distressed political state of this Commonwealth. He alludes to a third party just coming into existence, "They call themselves New Adopted Sons of Pennsylvania, I fear they are now opening Pandora's box,"—a soliloquy follows—"What a being is man, see him professing the meek and divine religion of Christ, see how on the days of divine service like a Saint humbly calling upon the object of his Faith for spiritual assistance, and see this same meek humble imitator of his Master, armed with envy, and discord, destroying the repose and quiet of his fellow mortals, and you will have a picture of Man.—how are the exceptions to this picture to be admired." During this visit to Philadelphia he also writes,—“I expected that I should at least be clear of persecution from schemers during my stay in this city, but my expectations were vain. I am now pestered with a gentleman by the name of Fitch, who has a model of a Machine for working Boats up Rivers, by a steam engine. It is well known from experiments that steam may be carried to any degree of strength, but whether its force can be applied with the complicated machinery to advantage can only be determined by actual experiments.” Andrew Ellicott frequently expresses his intense enjoyment in Social intercourse, and in the following shows his attachment to his friend, David Rittenhouse:—Nov. 4th. “Spent the forenoon and dined at the University with the President, and Rev. John Ewing, D. D. In the evening returned to my good friend, Mr. Rittenhouse, where I find real satisfaction, his philosophy, and agreeable manner, his lady's good sense, and un-

common good nature, added to the lively conversation and wise observations of the Daughters, would make even a monkey fond of their Society." On April 17th, 1786, he again visits his friend, and observes that he was "received with the usual marks of real friendliness, and by desire took up my lodgings with him," and continues as follows: "As I have formerly spoke of his amiable family I shall not again attempt it under full conviction that it is not in my power to do them justice." The next entry of interest is,—“After breakfast went to find the lodgings of the Commissioners from New York, and visited them Incog. General Clinton appears to be a thoughtful old gentleman, and Mr. Dewit, a man of 27 or 28, from report he is a gentleman of strong natural parts, and observations, for one of his age. After informing them that the gentleman from Baltimore had arrived and expected them at Mr. Rittenhouse's to-morrow at 11 o'clock, A. M., I took my leave.” His opinion of music seems to have undergone a slight modification, as evinced by the following quotation from his diary: “In the afternoon, to my great joy, Col. Porter, came to Town. In the evening attended our Philosophical Society, a great number of respectable members present, returned at 11 o'clock at night, and am now listening to Miss Hattie's vocal music. ‘Music, thou softener of the Savage mind. Thou power divine, how little attention do we pay to thy merits, and how ill are thy services recorded. To thee we apply for consolation, and look for thy assistance in our devotions.’” While a resident of Baltimore, Andrew Ellicott represented the city in the Legislature of Maryland. He was offered a second term, but decided political life was not in harmony with his Quaker taste and education, so declined. He seems to have devoted much time to the study of astronomy. He removed

from Baltimore to Philadelphia. He was at this time called "Geographer General."

January 20th., 1786, he was elected by the following action a member of the American Philosophical Society:

GREETING.—The American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia, for promoting useful knowledge, desirous of advancing the interest of the Society by associating to themselves men of distinguished eminence and of conferring marks of their esteem upon persons of literary merit, have elected Mr. Andrew Ellicott a member of the said Philosophical Society, hereby granting unto him all the rights of fellowship, with all the Liberties and Privileges thereunto belonging.\*

Writing from Baltimore, May 9, 1786, he says: "Yesterday I attended the Quaker Quarterly Meeting. Our meditations were interrupted but once, and then only for a short time. My speculations turned accidentally upon that easy sum for the Quadrature of the circle, found out by Mons. Leibting." \* \* \*

Benjamin Franklin writes of him under date of August 10, 1789,—“I have long known Mr. Andrew Ellicott as a man of science, and while I was in the Executive Council have had frequent occasion in the course of Public business of being acquainted with his abilities in Geographical operations of the most important kind, which were performed by him with greatest scientific accuracy.” He signs himself “B. Franklin, late President of the State of Pennsylvania.”

It was commonly thought that the Town of Erie, Pa., was within the survey of New York. So strongly was this believed that Pennsylvania offered at one time to purchase Erie in order that an outlet to the Lake might

\* I have the original commission, signed by Benjamin Franklin, President; John Ewing, Wm. White, Sam Vaughn, Vice-Presidents.

be secured. The following is the commission, now in the writer's possession, given to Andrew Ellicott to mark the correct lines.

**"To all Who Shall See These Presents Greeting—**  
**Whereas on the sixth day of June in the year of our**  
**Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, the**  
**said U. S. then in Congress Assembled did among other**  
**things, Resolve that the Geographer of the said States,**  
**be and he hereby was directed to ascertain by himself**  
**or by a Deputy duly appointed for the purpose the**  
**boundary line between the United States and the State**  
**of New York, and Massachusetts, agreeably to the**  
**deeds of cession of the said States, and further that**  
**the said Geographer or his Deputy, having run the me-**  
**ridian between Lake Erie, and the State of Pennsyl-**  
**vania, and marked and noted down in his field book**  
**proper land marks for perpetuating the same, should**  
**proceed to make survey of the land lying West of said**  
**line between Lake Erie, and the State of Pennsylvania,**  
**so as to ascertain the quantity thereof, and make return**  
**of such survey to the Board of Treasury and whereas**  
**the Senate and House of Representatives of the United**  
**States by a concurrent resolution passed by the latter**  
**on the tenth, and previously by the former on the 19th,**  
**of August \* \* \* imperfect \* \* \* directed**  
**by Congress in the aforesaid act June 6th, 1788, he**  
**made and returned to the Secretary of the Treasury**  
**without delay and that the President of the United**  
**States be requested to appoint a fit person to complete**  
**the same. Know Ye that in pursuance of said request,**  
**I have appointed and by these presents do appoint, An-**  
**drew Ellicott, of the State of Maryland, to complete the**  
**said survey, as directed by and by said act of Congress**  
**of the Sixth of June 1788, and by concurrent Resolu-**

tion of the Senate and House of Representatives above mentioned. Given under my hand at the City of New York the fifth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

GEO. WASHINGTON."

In this survey Andrew Ellicott was assisted by his two brothers, Joseph and Benjamin.

From the evidence here given of Washington's appreciation of the talent of Major Ellicott it will not be a matter of surprise that so soon thereafter his appointment as Surveyor of the new City of Washington should meet with the President's approval.

It was while engaged in the last mentioned survey that Andrew Ellicott, and his brothers Joseph and Benjamin, had their first view of Niagara Falls. Under the supervision of Andrew Ellicott the first accurate measurement of the entire length of Niagara river, the fall of the river from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, the height of the great fall and rapids, was made. This measurement remains the accepted measure of to-day. In 1790 Phelps and Gorham sold to Robert Morris land lying between their possessions, and those of the Indian Lessee Company, Western New York. Robert Morris engaged Major Ellicott to resurvey the land. The line, as run by the surveyor of the Lessee Company, was found to be incorrect, and the difference was 84,000 acres in favor of Robert Morris,—so carefully and correctly was this survey made that the result was never disputed. Now we reach the date when the career of Andrew Ellicott will perhaps be of greater interest to us. It will readily be appreciated from what has already been written of Ellicott, that he was a man distinguished in his profession; a man who commanded the confidence of Washington, and one who must, from



natural talent, cultivation, and practical experience, have given more than the service of surveyor in the performance of the duty which is now to devolve upon him in connection with the work within the ten miles square.

The letter of earliest date (a copy in writer's possession) touching the work of preparing the new Capital,—is dated Philadelphia, January 15, 1791, and says:

The President thinking it would be better that the outline at least of the City, and perhaps Georgetown should be laid down in the plat of the territory. I have the honor now to send it and to desire that Major Ellicott may do it as soon as convenient, that it may be returned in time to be laid before Congress.

I have the honor, &c.,

THOS. JEFFERSON.

Messrs Johnson, Stuart  
and Carroll.

The second is dated Philadelphia, February 2, 1791:

To Major Ellicott,—

Sir:—You are desired to proceed by the first stage to the Federal territory on the Potomac, for the purpose of making a survey of it. The first object will be to run the two first lines mentioned in the enclosed proclamation to wit:—the S. W. line 160 poles and the S. E. line to Hunting Creek or should it not strike Hunting Creek as has been suggested then to the River. These two lines must run with all the accuracy of which your art is susceptible as they are to fix the beginning either on Hunting Creek or the River, if the second line should strike the River instead of the Creek take and lay down the bearing and distance of the

nearest part of the creek and also of any of its waters if any of them should be nearer than the creek itself; so also should either of these two lines cross any water of Hunting Creek let it be noted. The termination of the Second line being accurately fixed, either on the creek or river proceed to run from that at a beginning the four lines of experiment directed in the proclamation, this is intended as the first rough essay to furnish data for the last accurate survey. It is desirable that it be made with all the dispatch possible and with only common exactness, paying regard however to the magnetic variations. In running these lines note the position of the mouth of the Eastern Branch, the point of your first course there will receive the S. W. line from the Cape of the Eastern Branch,—the Canal and particular distance of your crossing it from either end, the position of Georgetown, and mouth of Goose Creek, and send by Post, A plat of the whole on which ultimate directions for the rest of the work shall be sent you, as soon as they can be prepared. Till these shall be received by you, you can be employed in ascertaining a true Meridian, and the latitude of the place, and running the meanderings of the Eastern Branch, and of the River itself, and other waters which will merit an exact place in the map of the Territory. You will herewith receive a draft on the Mayor of Georgetown to cover your expenses.

TH. JEFFERSON.

P. S.

The President writes by Post to Mr. Beall Mayor of Georgetown to furnish you with money for your expenses for which therefore you may apply to him without further order.

The next letter bears date of Feb. 14th, 1791 (copy) written either to the President, or to Mr. Jefferson by Major Ellicott,—

Sir:—I arrived at this town on Monday last, but the cloudy weather prevented any observations being made until Friday which was very fine. On Saturday the two first lines were completed. You will see by the enclosed plat that the second line does not touch any part of Hunting Creek unless the spring drain noted in the plat is to be considered a part of it. It appears to me that in order to make the plan as complete as possible it will be proper to begin the survey of the ten miles square at the Eastern inclination of the upper cape of Hunting Creek, marked on the plat. This plan will include all the Harbor and wharfs of Alexandria, which will not be the Case if the two first lines mentioned in the proclamation are to remain as now. I shall submit to your consideration the following plan for the permanent location which will I believe embrace every object of advantage which can be included within the ten miles square. [Many erasures follow and indistinct writing.]—as marked in plat A. The magnetic variations at this place is somewhat uncertain, arising no doubt from some local cause. It was 20 easterly when the second line struck the river and at the end of the first line, it was nearly as much Westerly. The Latitude of Alexandria, I find to be about 33 48 20 N. This afternoon I intend beginning the rough survey which shall be executed with all possible dispatch, [more erasures]. You will observe by the plan which I have suggested for the Permanent Location a small deviation with respect to the compass from that mentioned in the Proclamation, the reason of which is that the Coup's in the Proclamation, strictly adhered to, would neither produce straight lines, nor

contain quite the ten miles square, besides the utmost impropriety of running such lines without tolerable exactness. I am Sir with greatest respect and esteem your o'b'd't Servant.

ANDREW ELLICOTT.

About the same time, Ellicott addressed his wife as follows:

Alexandria, Feb. 14th, 1791.

My dear,—

I arrived at this Town on Tuesday, last in good health but in consequence of bad weather, could not proceed to business till Friday last. I have been treated with great politeness by the inhabitants, who are truly rejoiced at the prospect of being included in the Federal district. I shall leave this town this afternoon to begin the rough survey of the ten miles square. I am my dear your affectionate husband.

A. ELLICOTT.

The letter of next nearest date in my possession is dated from Georgetown, March 20th, 1791—to his wife. "I have taken a few minutes to write you by Col. Thompson, who I expect will deliver this together with a small bundle containing a pair of black silk mits, and a small smelling bottle, which I hope you will receive as a small testimony of as pure affection as ever had place in the Human Breast. I have met with many difficulties for want of my old hands, and have in consequence a most severe attack of influenza worked for many days in extreme pain. I am now perfectly recovered, and as fat as you ever saw me. . . . The President will be here next Monday, and after I receive his future orders, you shall hear from me." . . .

He here alludes to the joy it will afford him to meet her, and continues, "it is now late at night and my letter carried to a great length, but when I call to mind our happy connection, the consequence of an early attachment, founded in Virtue and Love, I know not where to conclude. So many objects pleasing to my recollection crowd in upon me. I am dear Sally your affectionate husband,  
ANDREW ELLICOTT."

One cannot fail to admire the spirit of devotion which this letter breathes. The following letter is also addressed to his wife.

Surveyors Camp, State of Virginia,  
June 26, 1791.

My dear Sally;—

Since my last which was forwarded by our friend Adam Hoops, nothing material has transpired except the return of the President. I have found the weather in this country extremely hot, partly owing I suppose to the want of rain, having had but three small showers since I left you last. The country through which we are now cutting one of the ten mile lines is very poor. I think for near seven miles, on it there is not one house that has any floor except the earth, and what is more strange it is in the neighborhood of Alexandria and Georgetown. We find but little fruit, except huckleberries, and live in our Camp as retired as we used to do on Lake Erie. Labouring hands in this country can scarcely be had at any rate, my estimate was twenty—but I have to wade slowly thro' with six, this scarcity of hands will lengthen out the time much beyond what I intended. As the President is so much attached to this Country, I would not be willing that he should know my real sentiments about it. But with

you my dear whose love and affection I have constantly experienced almost from our infancy, I am not afraid to make my sentiments known. This country intended for the permanent residence of Congress, bears no more proportion to the country about Philadelphia and Germantown, for either wealth or fertility, than a crane does to a stall fed ox. I have enclosed a check on bank for fifty dollars which I expect will by this time be acceptable. I pray that the Supreme director of Human wants may preserve you and our dear children.

The next letter at my command is written from Georgetown, August 9th, 1791. My Dear Sally:—Next Monday two weeks at farthest I shall leave this for Philadelphia. I am now so completely tired of being from home that I would willingly resign my appointment rather than suffer so much anxiety and pain. After the business is finished in Georgia, I am determined though poverty should pursue me to live at home, and cherish the most affectionate of wives. Do not my dear send me any bad news, my present frame of mind would suffer extremely by it and it might only prolong the time of my return \* \* \* We have a most elegant camp, and things in fine order, but where you are not there are no charms. I expect my companion Major L'Enfant, which is pronounced in English Lonfong, will pay you a visit in my name sometime next week, he is a most worthy French gentleman and tho' not one of the most handsome of men, he is from his good breeding, and native politeness, a first rate favorite among the ladies. I am my dear Sally, &c.

Yet another letter to his wife dated Georgetown Oct. 17th, 1791,—My dear Sally,—Lady Washington, has undertaken to have this handed to you immediately on her arrival in Philadelphia. The most pleasing information I can give you at present is that I am in

good health; but hurried off of my legs and bothered out of my senses. This is the day of the sale of Public lots in the new city of Washington, you may expect that I have but few leisure minutes for writing. Lady Washington will leave this place immediately. I am dear Sallie, &c.

Closely upon this time November 20th., 1791—President Washington and Mr. Jefferson found it difficult to continue the work in a satisfactory way with Major L'Enfant. Jefferson wrote, "it has been found impracticable to employ Major L'Enfant, about the federal City in that degree of subordination which was lawful and proper he has been notified that his services are at an end. \* \* \* Ellicott is to go on and finish laying off the plan on the ground and surveying and plotting the district."

In harmony with the above action the next letter is written by Mr. Jefferson and bears date Philadelphia Nov. 21, 1791—Dear Sir;—It is excessively desirable that an extensive sale of lots in Washington should take place as soon as possible, it has been recommended to the Commissioners to have all the squares adjacent to the Avenue, from the President's house to the Capitol on both sides, and from thence to the River through the whole breadth of the ground between Rock Creek, and the Eastern Branch, first laid off. The object of the present is to ask your private opinion of the earliest time at which this portion of the work can be completed? which I will beg the favor of you to communicate to me by letter. In order that the sale may not be delayed by the engravers it is hoped that by communicating what is executed from time to time, the engraver can nearly keep pace with you. I am with great esteem Dear Sir,

Your most devoted serv't,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Major Andrew Ellicott.

History having failed to give Major Ellicott the honor due him for the share which is clearly proven by official documents he had in preparing the accepted and engraved plan by which this City was laid out—and under which the sales were made—It affords me pleasure just here to quote some of these proofs.

7th. CONGRESS—1ST. SESSION.

Communicated to the House of Representatives April 8th, 1802.

Mr. Dennis, from the Committee to whom was referred on the 5th. of February last, a motion in the form of two resolutions of the House, respecting the adjustment of the existing disputes between the Commissioners of the City of Washington and other persons who may conceive themselves injured by the several alterations made in plan of said City, &c. That many disputes have arisen between the Commissioners and proprietors of City property, in consequence of the alterations which from time to time have taken place in the plan of the city of Washington. Your Committee find that the plan of the City was originally designed by Mr. L'Enfant, but that it was in many respects rejected by the President of the United States, and a plan drawn up by Mr. Ellicott purporting to have been made from actual survey, which recognized the alterations made therein, and which was engraved and published by the order of General Washington in the year 1792. This plan was circulated by the Government through the United States, and sent to our public agents in Europe, by authority of the Government, as the plan of the City and is the only one which has ever been engraved and published; this is generally



known by the appellation of the engraved plan. From this plan later deviations were made and incorporated in a map which received the endorsement of Mr. Adams, but this plan has never been engraved and published. In continuance of the report is given a statement of a number of citizens in the form of a letter to Mr. Adams Nov. 10th, 1798 \* \* \* Mr. L'Enfant was succeeded by Major Ellicott in the surveying department; the latter was superseded and that department devolved on others, perhaps less qualified. While Mr. Ellicott was surveyor a plan was engraved by the direction of the Commissioners, and a very numerous impression taken therefrom. A number of copies were lodged in the Office of the Secretary of State, others with the Commissioners and many dispersed throughout the United States and Europe for sale and for the information of persons who might incline to become purchasers of the City property. This plan although it differed in many respects from that by which the first sales were made—and which had been laid before Congress, was generally considered as the final plan of the City; and from that period sales have invariably been made in conformity therewith, under the idea that the sanction under which it issued was a sufficient guaranty of its stability. It has already been observed that there were several alterations made in the plan between Mr. L'Enfant's first design, and the publishing of the last engraved plan in Philadelphia, by the Commissioners, and promulgated as the plan of the City." Major Ellicott's map was the engraved plan.

In a letter dated Commissioners Office March 23, 1802, to Hon. John Dennis, Chairman of a Committee of Congress the following occurs. "Major L'Enfant's plan of the City was sent to the House of Representatives on the 13th. of Dec. 1791, by President Washing-

ton for the information of the House and *afterward withdrawn*. Many alterations were made therefrom by Major Ellicott with the approbation of the President and under his authority; all the appropriations except as to the Capitol and President's house were struck out and the plan thus altered sent to the engravers, intending that work and the promulgation thereof to give the final and regulating stamp. These changes from L'Enfant's plan took place in the year 1792, and the published plan appears to have been engraved in October of that year. It has since been pursued in all the operations of the city under the directions of the Commissioners as far as it was practicable—but the city not having been surveyed, and this plan having been partly from L'Enfant's draughts, and partly from materials possessed by Ellicott it was probable it would not correspond with an actual mensuration. In continuance the letter further says "we know but one instance of a complaint of injury arising from a difference between L'Enfant's and the engraved plan; that is the case of Samuel Davidson, he alleges that L'Enfant's plan ought to be considered as the plan of the City, as by it he would be entitled to additional property. His case as stated by himself was transmitted to President Washington, who in a letter to the Commissioners dated Feb. 20, 1797, says:

"That many alterations have been made from L'Enfant's plan by Major Ellicott with the approbation of the Executive is not denied; that some were deemed essential is avowed and had it not been for the materials which he happened to possess, it is probable that no engraving from L'Enfant's draughts ever would have been exhibited to the public, for after the disagreement took place between him and the Commis-

sioners, his obstinacy threw every difficulty in the way of its accomplishment. To this summary may be added that Mr. Davidson is mistaken if he supposes that the transmission of Major L'Enfant's plan of the City to Congress was the completion thereof: so far from it it will appear by the message which accompanied the same that it was given as matter of information only, to show what state the business was in, and the return of it requested. That neither House of Congress passed any act consequent thereupon; that it remained as before, under the control of the Executive, that afterwards several errors were discovered and corrected many alterations made and the appropriations, except as to the Capitol and the President's house, struck out under that authority before it was sent to the engraver intending that work and the promulgation thereof were to give the final and regulating stamp." Upon receipt of this letter from President Washington the Commissioners rejected the application. General Washington in replying to a complaint from William Thornton in a letter dated Federal City June 1st., 1799, writes:—"I have never had but one opinion on this subject, and that is that nothing ought to justify a departure from the engraved plan, but the probability of some great public benefit, or unavoidable necessity." From the foregoing it will readily be seen that a gross injustice has been done Major Ellcott, in withholding his name in connection with the engraved and adopted plan by which our Capital City was laid out; that portion of L'Enfant's draughts were used—in constructing the whole is not questioned, but the final map was one submitted by Ellcott and engraved and put into use by order of President Washington.

A long period now intervenes of which I have no

account—and the next letter bears date of Georgetown 1st. September 1792, and is as follows,—Major Ellicott is requested to prepare several squares near the President's House, the Capitol, the Commissioners' house, the Judiciary, the Markets on the Canal, on the Mall, on the Eastern Branch where it can be done on the different proprietors' lands near each place. The division of the squares where their size will permit to be laid off in the same manner as those last October and that he report by the 5th. October in what other part of the City squares may be laid off. By order of the Commissioners.

JAMES M. GARRETT.

The next letter is of date,—January 1st. 1793. Second Survey.—I Andrew Ellicott do hereby certify that being appointed to this service by Thomas Johnson, David Stuart, and Daniel Carroll, Commissioners in virtue and for the execution of Act of Congress for establishing the temporary and permanent seat of the Government of the United States have agreeably to the Direction of the President's two several proclamations carefully surveyed the following District of Territory ten miles square, to wit:—Beginning at a stone fixed on Jones point being the upper cape of Hunting Creek in the Commonwealth of Virginia and at an angle in the outset of forty-five degrees west of the mouth and running in a direct line ten miles for the first line; then beginning again at the said stone on Jones Point, and running another direct line at a right angle with the first across the Potomac ten miles for the second line; then from the terminations of the said first and second lines, running two other direct lines of ten miles each the one crossing the Eastern Branch and the other the Potomac and meeting each other in a point. These lines are opened and cleared

forty feet wide that is twenty feet on each side of the lines limiting the Territory, and in order to perpetuate the work I have set up square mile stones marked progressively with the number of miles from the beginning on Jones' Point to the West corner thence from the West corner to the north corner to the east corner and from thence to the place of beginning on Jones' point; except in a few cases where the miles terminated on declivities or in waters; the stones are then placed on the first firm ground, and their true distances in miles and poles marked on them. On the sides of the stones facing the Territory is inscribed, "Jurisdiction of the United States." On the opposite sides of those placed in the commonwealth of Virginia is inscribed "Virginia." And on those in the State of Maryland, "Maryland." On the third and fourth sides, or faces, is inscribed the year in which the stone was set up, and the conditions of the Magnetic Needle at that place.—In addition to the foregoing work I have completed a map of the four lines with an half mile each side, including the said District, or territory, with a survey of the different waters.

Witness my hand this first day of January 1793.

ANDREW ELLICOTT.

The following letter next in date which I can command is addressed to Mr. Jefferson, City of Washington January 12th., 1793.—Sir:—From a conversation which I had with you some time ago I remember you was desirous of discovering the Indian name of the Eastern Branch of the Potomack. By some old surveys it appears to be "Anna Kastia." The reasons of my disagreement with the Commissioners and ultimate determination to quit the business of the City of Washington on the first day of May next shall be pub-

lished immediately after that date and I have no doubt but that from a clear investigation of facts my conduct and exertions will be approved of by the candid and deserving.

I am Sir with esteem your real friend,

ANDREW ELLICOTT.

To

Thos. Jefferson, Esq.

The disagreement between Major Ellicott and the Commissioners seems now to have culminated; but not to have continued long. They appear to have anticipated his resignation which according to his letter he had determined to present, by as he writes dismissing him from the service. They were not unanimously supported in this act as appears from the following letter.—City of Washington, January 12th. 1793. Were all, who may directly or indirectly hear of the disagreement between Major Andrew Ellicott and the Commissioners personally acquainted with that gentleman, or spectators of his conduct I would be silent on the occasion, but as circumstances may be partially related, and misapprehended it becomes expedient to bring forward facts authenticated by free full and unbiased testimony I am therefore happy in having it in my power to certify and declare in the most solemn manner: that ever since I have been employed with Major Ellicott in the City of Washington on the Boundary lines of the Territory of Columbia or in the surveyor's office, Georgetown, I have observed him uniformly attentive to the business of his department from the first appearance of light in the morning until his usual bed time (not even Sundays excepted) Nothing while I have been present—but extreme indisposition—and not always even that—has ever appeared to me to divert his attention from his business or to abate

his anxious endeavors to promote the general interest of the city of Washington with the approbation if possible of both Commissioners and proprietors. I shall produce one instance out of many of his extreme attention to his duty. When we were running the boundary lines of the territory of Columbia being obliged to transact (as I have understood) the general business of his office in Georgetown on Saturday evening and Sunday he used actually to arrive at our Camp on the line at no less distance than seven miles from that Town, on Monday morning before it was light enough to see distinctly, without a candle. It was also his usual custom to breakfast by candle light in the morning. The labors of the day commenced before day light and he did not retire from them but with retiring day light, frequently not even for dinner. In short I do not believe it possible for a man aiming solely at the augmentation of his private fortune or the attainments of his reigning wish to be more indefatigable in the pursuit or instant in his exertions than Major Ellicott always appeared to me to be in the faithful execution of the public business committed to his charge. Such conduct in a public servant although the rigid moralist may call it no more than duty is certainly meritorious and demands the esteem and approbation of every unprejudiced mind.

T. BRIGGS.

Tardiness in securing expected results seems to have been the reason for discontent on the part of Commissioners, as Major Ellicott preferred accuracy to expedition.

At the time of writing this letter Major Ellicott was yet pursuing the work entrusted to him as a letter from Mr. Jefferson will show.

The following letter is without date, but from the tenor thereof I believe it should properly be inserted here. It is to the Commissioners from Major Ellicott. —Gentlemen, your precipitate departure after receiving mine of the 8th. prevented my replying the next morning particularly to yours of same date for want of copies of my letters of the 4th and 5th. From information which I have received since your adjournment it appears that you have affected not to understand that part of my letter of the 4th (2) 2 with regard to not being able to give satisfaction in the execution of the business in which I have been engaged in the City of Washington. The idea which I intended to convey was that as my exertions in executing the plan did not meet your approbation (and likewise from the discontent which Mr Dumot frequently informed me he discovered among the Proprietors) it would be agreeable to me to withdraw from the business. That you have given me every reason to believe you were discontented with my proceedings I think you will not pretend to deny. Your blaming me to the President, to Mr. Walker and others with respect to the work being delayed on the Eastern Branch and other places are sufficient evidences that I have not been actuated by suspicion respecting your own sentiments. As the delay on the Eastern Branch appears to have been more particularly attended to than at any other place, I feel myself interested in accounting for it both to the public and proprietors. I hope that I am now understood but must at the same time declare that it will be difficult to convince me that my letter of the 4th. required a comment to enable you to understand it, whatever it might for others. In replying to yours of the 8th I shall begin with your general censure conveyed in the



words, "without pretending to a Scientific acquaintance with your professional art we cannot sacrifice so much of our sincerity as to say otherwise than that our expectations have been much disappointed as to the time the surveying has been on hand and have often mentioned to you, our wish of strengthening you with every assistance in our power to expedite it." This paragraph was evidently intended to shelter yourselves under your not "pretending to a scientific acquaintance with my professional art." If this was not your intention, you could have conveyed your meaning more pointedly in fewer words with equal elegance though "sacrifice" and "sincerity" had been omitted. As an evidence that no delay has been occasioned for want of exertions I must refer you to the adjoining testimony of those acquainted with me both in the office and field; but in a number of instances the work has been impeded by attempting to comply with your "particular requests." The "wish", which you say you manifested to me of increasing my strength could not possibly have been extended with advantage to the work beyond a mere wish, for had more assistants been taken into pay, they must have been idle for want of the necessary instruments. This would have been strange economy. In the last paragraph of yours of the 8th, you say "you must have often observed our difficulties and chagrin at being obliged to act in the existing state of the work" I confess that I have often observed your ill humor with respect to the progress of the business under my direction which is one of the causes of my dissatisfaction because I am certain that on a fair investigation you will not find even the shadow of a phantom for a foundation to rest your complaints upon. If your "expectations have been much disappointed" owing to a want of a "scientific

acquaintance with my professional art" and a knowledge of the system on which the plan of the city depends and which must be pursued upon principles as fixed as the SUN if executed in the least time and best manner possible. I can see no reason for your ill humor or "chagrin" I "cannot make such a sacrifice" of my "sincerity" as to say that I comprehend the meaning of these words, "being obliged to act in the existing" state of the work. Because first I cannot conceive how you would act in the non-existing state of it. Secondly, no difficulty could occur to any person of modest capacity in acting upon the work already executed, and thirdly if you mean that my bringing *forward a plan of the City* without which that part of the business in which I have been engaged must have been delayed another season had rendered it necessary however disagreeable for you to act at all it might have been much better and more clearly expressed. I shall close this after making a few observations relative to the discontent of the Proprietors which Doctor Stuart informed Mr. Marstella was the principal cause of our disagreement. On receiving this information I called upon the proprietors generally, and found the report as far as it respected the surveying department, wholly without foundation, but candour obliges me to confess that I found instances of dissatisfaction arising from a very different cause namely,—an apprehension that I had been concerned in the dismissal of Major L'Enfant and defended your measures which they supposed must ultimately injure the great work in which you are engaged, and in which they are so deeply interested. As confidence is frequently the parent of success and the want of it the cause of misfortune, and as this want of confidence in those concerned in conducting the affairs of the City, appears to be too general I

shall just take the liberty of proposing a hint which may safely be improved by you to advantage (that is) suppose we should all withdraw from business as Sancho did from the weight of his government, and be succeeded by others whose minds embraced the magnitude of the object and enjoyed the confidence of those interested in its prosperity, is there not every reason to suppose that it would be attended with the most desirable consequences. As your office is an office of record, I request that this with the adjoining testimonies may be entered on your journal as a reply to the censure contained in yours of the 8th.

From Mr. Jefferson,

Philadelphia Jan. 15th, 1794.

Dear Sir;—

I have duly received your favor of the 9th., the President thinking it would be better that the outlines at least of the City and perhaps of Georgetown, should be laid down in the plot of the Territory, I have sent it back to the Commissioners from whom it came that you may do this. Supposing you were to consult them on the propriety of adding to the Eastern Branch the words Annakastia this would probably revive the ancient Indian name instead of the modern one. I am extremely sorry to learn that there has arisen any dissatisfaction between the Commissioners and yourself. I am sure it is without fault on either side, such is my confidence in both parties. The work you are employed in must be slow from its nature and it is not wonderful if the Commissioners should think it too much so however I hope you will change your mind about bringing it before the public. This cannot be done without injuring the expectations built on the City nor can it be necessary in a case unknown beyond

the Circle of Georgetown within that Circle verbal explanation will certainly answer equally well as a justification to you indeed I hope nothing will take place to render your future services there unobtainable with the Commissioners, and that you will suspend any resolution you may have taken on this subject. I thank you for your almanac, but why have you adopted the name of *Georgium sidus*, which no nation but the English took up, while justice and all the nations gave it that of *Herschel*? I have often wished we could have published in America an Almanac, which without going beyond the purchase of the people in general, might answer some of the purposes of those a little above them in information. The declination and right ascension of the Sun, the equation of time, places of those of the remarkable stars which are above our horizon in the night, and some other little matter might be substituted in place of the weather and other useless articles, without increasing the bulk or price of the almanac. I know no body but yourself from whom we could hope such a thing. What say you to it.

I am with great esteem Dear Sir,

Your very humble serv't.

TH. JEFFERSON.

The disagreement had now come to open rupture as seen by the following:—

Georgetown, March 16th. 1793.

Sir:—The Commissioners of the public buildings have at length dismissed me from the business in which I have been engaged in the City of Washington without giving me an opportunity though demanded of verbally explaining what from misrepresentation and the want of knowledge of the plan they supposed to be

unpardonable inaccuracies. I do assert, and posterity will bear me witness to its truth, that there is not a work of that nature or magnitude in the Universe executed with equal accuracy and I do require an examination into the general execution of the plan by men of known professional abilities in that way otherwise I shall consider myself a sacrifice at the shrine of ignorance. I am sir with esteem and gratitude  
your o'b'd't serv't,

ANDREW ELLICOTT.

President U. S.

Mr. Jefferson replied to this letter for the President as follows:—

Philadelphia, March 22, 1793.

Sir:—Your letter of the 16th to the President has been duly received wherein you require an examination into the execution of the general plan of the city by men of known profesional abilities, if this be addressed to the President under an expectation that he should order such an examination, I have to observe to you that it would be out of the line of his interference to originate orders relative to those employed under the Commissioners, their plans come to him for approbation or disapprobation, but everything concerning the execution is left to themselves; and particularly the President declines all interference with those employed by them, or under them. The President is sincerely concerned at the difference which has taken place, but does not suppose it to be a case for any interposition on his part. To these expressions of his sentiments on the subject of your letter I have only to add those of regard and esteem from Sir

Your most obed't humble serv't,

TH. JEFFERSON.

Mr. Andrew Ellicott.

The next in sequence is a joyful letter from Major Ellicott to his wife which is in strong contrast with the one the doughty Quaker addressed to the President.

Georgetown, April 10th, 1793.

My Dear Sally;—

I have just taken a few minutes to acquaint you that I am in good health \* \* \* The singular situation into which I was thrown immediately on my arrival at this place and the doubtful issue prevented my writing until a final determination which was had yesterday. My victory was complete; and all my men reinstated in the City, after a suspension of one month. As my reputation depended on the determination, I neglected nothing in my power to defeat the Commissioners, but had to contend very unequally, owing to all my papers being siezed by their order the day after I returned from Philadelphia. And this day they were all restored to me again. This victory has cost me at least £75. The defeat of the Commissioners has given great pleasure to the inhabitants of this place, and when I went into the City yesterday after the determination, the joy of every person concerned in the business was evident, and it was with difficulty that they were prevented from huzzaing. Briggs behaved like a true friend, and a man of sense and prudence, he has lost by it about half as much as I have. I shall write to you again on Tuesday next, and inclose a sum of money. Brother Benjamin is in good health, and this day begins work in the City. I am my dearest Sally,

Your affectionate husband,

ANDREW ELLICOTT.

Mrs. Sarah Ellicott.

Yours by the President came to hand, I think my victory in some measure owing to him.

A. E.

The Commissioners wrote to Maj. Ellicott.—

Georgetown, April 9th, 1793

SIR:—We approve of Mr. Briggs, Mr. George Fenwick and Mr. Benjamin Ellicott as your assistants on the Terms mentioned in your letter. Their compensation is understood by us to be same as formerly allowed them. We shall be glad to have a little conversation with you, before we separate, which we hope will be soon. And are Sir, Your humble servants,

TH. JOHNSON,  
DR. STUART,  
Com'rs

On April 15th, 1793, Gov. Mifflin commissioned William Irvine, Andrew Ellicott and John Wilkins, Jr., to view and lay out a Road from Reading to Presque Isle. He probably left the work in Washington in charge of his subordinates for on May 22, 1793, he began his journey to Pittsburg and reached that place on the 30th. This mark of appreciation must have been to him a most agreeable expression of confidence. (Subsequently March 1st, 1794, with Messrs. Irvine and Gallatin, he was again appointed by Gov. Mifflin to lay out town of Presque Isle.)

Surveyor's Office,

Washington July 29, 1793.

(Copy)

GENTLEMEN—When Major Ellicott was about to depart from this city, he gave us written instructions to

conduct the surveying department in his absence, on the same general system lately pursued; and in no case deviate from it, unless in obedience to an express order from you in writing. We were also, at the same time, instructed to report to you at your meetings the state of the work, with such other information as might appear to merit your consideration; and to sign the returns designating the squares, and deliver them to your clerk.

In pursuance, thereof, of those instructions we report: that we have completed a survey of that part of the City, comprehended in sheet No. 9, bounded on the north by B street north; on the South by L street south; on the East by 2nd street east; and on the West by 4½ street West; and delivered to your clerk the returns designating each square it contains. Some squares on South-Capitol, included in this sheet were during the hurry of the sale, in October last estimated from the best data that could then be collected; and were we believe, partly divided with Mr. Daniel Carroll of Duddington; the survey of these Squares is now completed, and an accurate and final division may be made. As that small part of South Carolina Avenue West of South Capitol appears to answer no other purpose than materially to injure three or four otherwise handsome squares, we have not extended it further westward than the public appropriation about the intersection of 1st. street east and Virginia Avenue; this, we hope will meet your approbation. The survey of that part of the city east from 2nd. street east and south of C street north is in great forwardness and we hope, if we are fortunate enough to escape sickness to be able to make very satisfactory returns between this time and the ensuing sale. In consequence of a close attentions to the checks furnished by the con-



struction of the plan, we have discovered several sources of error in the work of last summer, of such a nature as for a long time to elude detection. It appears that two principal points of intersection had been moved from their intended position, between the time of first fixing them, and extending the Avenues and streets passing through them. Yet this mischief might have been easily discovered and prevented had not the streets, from which checks would have arisen been removed in regular proportion. This removal of points being found so uncommonly systematic, affords such an obvious proof of deliberate, nefarious design in the author that we cannot possibly ascribe it to accident. It has been a source of shameful delay in the business; of enormous unnecessary expense to the public; and of much additional difficulty, labor, and anxiety to us; we shall, therefore in future be very careful not to suffer any person, whose character does not appear fair, to be in any manner connected with us in the surveying department. This information will account for such differences as you may observe between the dimensions of squares, East of the Capitol, as formerly returned, and now returned by us.

You will observe in the plan a small canal or inlet from the Eastern Branch extending northward along Fifth street East; this is high ground; we would therefore submit the idea of placing this inlet in Sixth street, where the tide already flows almost the whole distance intended. We have at the request of Mr. Hoban, accurately marked the line of the streets, for regulating the front of the Union Public Hotel. If such precision is strictly attended to from the beginning, in all front buildings, it will be the only means of preserving the beauty of the plan and of correcting such little irregularities as are unavoidable in placing

stones, intended to limit the streets and squares. We also beg leave to suggest for your consideration the idea of placing in the wall of each corner front building a handsome piece of free stone or white marble, with the name of each street or avenue sculptured on it; This we conceive would be far preferable in point of beauty and even economy, to the pieces of painted board usual in other cities. If Mr. George Fenwick makes the same progress he has hitherto done in bounding, with stones, the squares and areas, he will, in two or three weeks completely overtake the surveying, and his employment will be by no means sufficient to fill up his time.

We are Gentlemen,

Your most obedient & very humble serv'ts

JOS. ELLICOTT.

BENJAMIN ELLICOTT.

J. BRIGGS.

} [Both brothers of Andrew Ellicott. Joseph laid out the City of Buffalo. Benjamin was later in life member of Congress.]

The Commissioners of the Public Buildings &c.

I have no data at hand from which to state how long Major Ellicott was absent. We learn by the last letter he had left specific instructions as to how the work should be conducted. The following letter bears the date of month, but not of year.—so I must insert it in this place as it may be the proper one for it, but of this I cannot be positive.

Log-hall October 4th., Morning.

Mr. Briggs presents his most respectful compliments to Major Ellicott. I have caused Mr. Marstella and Mr. Fenwick each to make a list of all the measurements in his possession which lists you will find inclosed. You will observe a difference of almost 12 feet between Mr. Fenwick's measurement of the square

from 9th. to 10th sts East and that which is set down on the plan. I shall cause this square to be remeasured on N. C. and send you the result. I shall also take 18 inches from 2nd st. East, and add it to the square between 2nd. and 3rd. sts. I informed Mr. Dermott repeatedly that he might make this alteration in the list of measurements Mr. Fenwick gave him on Sunday last for I should make it on the ground. Mr. Marstella has no measurements of the oblique sides of the irregular figures made by the avenues of Massachusetts and N. Carolina westward of their intersection; he informs me that he imagines Mr. Curtis must have them. I wish to be informed how wide you would have the street made which passes east and west through the intersection of Georgia, and 8th streets, and the size of the streets and squares to southward of it.

This street is marked M on the plan we have, Mr. Curtis told me it was K on the large plan.

I am with esteem and respect,

Your friend,

T. BRIGGS.

The following letter concludes the series I have

Georgetown 17th December 1794.

GENTLEMEN:—Major Ellicott's return was unexpected, the arrangement was satisfactory to us, we do not incline to alter it in the beginning of Winter, it is a delicate circumstance with you and we wish to know whether we may depend on your services—Be pleased to form your resolutions jointly or severally as you may judge proper and inform us of the result if equally

agreeable to you it will be more so to us to see you tomorrow or next day.

We are gentlemen,

Your most humble serv'ts,

THOMAS JOHNSON,

DR. STUART,

DAN'L CARROLL,

Commiss'rs

Messrs Benjamin

&

Joseph Ellicott,

There is every evidence that President Washington continued to entertain feelings of respect and friendship for Major Ellicott, and when his labors in the District of Columbia were concluded the President presented Major Ellicott with a pair of gold lined goblets as a mark of his esteem.—One of which the writer has the honor and happiness to possess.

In March 1794, Gov. Mifflin again appointed Messrs Irvine, Ellicott, and Gallatin Commissioners to lay out the town of Presque Isle and ordered that adequate arrangement be made at Le Boeuf to give protection from hostile Indians &c., to survey and open two roads one from Reading the other from French Creek to Presque Isle and avoid giving offence to peaceable Indians and the British garrison in that quarter. A most interesting correspondence ensues. The President fears disturbance if Presque Isle is established,—Gov. Mifflin defends the action of Pennsylvania. Letters follow from Major Ellicott to Sec'y Dallas; from Sec'y Knox to Gov. Mifflin; Sec'y Dallas to Mr. Irvine and Major Ellicott. Sec'y Dallas closes his letter to Sec'y Knox expressing hope for a change in the Executive's opinion requesting him not to abandon the undertaking.

In July Sec'y Knox writes that Mr. Ellicott who has been employed by Pennsylvania thinks all differences may be accommodated by treaty. There was evidently a difference of opinion between the President and some of his Cabinet also Gov. Mifflin as to the wisest course to pursue.

In 1795 Major Ellicott with Mr. Wm. Irvine was appointed to lay out lots at Presque Isle, and make other surveys.

In 1796 he was appointed Commissioner on behalf of the United States to determine the Boundary between the U. S. and the possessions of his Catholic Majesty in America. Upon this work he was engaged during a part of the year 1796, the year 1797, 1798, 1799 and part of 1800. Major Ellicott though numberless opportunities must have arisen to enable him to do so, never accumulated wealth. From Philadelphia September 17th, 1800 he writes:—"I am writing an *Astronomical Journal*," and intimates that it is in the hope he will repair the losses sustained by his appointments which had been serious to him. "This is the very first time I have been under the necessity of selling part of my books to procure bread." Speaking of apparatus he says, "Great part of it was my own private property and it will be seen that no individual before at his own expense ever furnished a Nation with such a number of valuable instruments." December 18th. Mr. Jefferson enquires of Major Ellicott where he had proposed to establish an accurate Meridian at Washington. He replies "The Capitol in the City of Washington stands on the intersection of the Meridian and prime vertical the centre of the North and South Avenue may therefore be taken as the true Meridian." The positions of all leading Avenues were determined by celestial observations and will be found in 4th. Vol. of the

Transactions of our Philosophical Society. Feb. 5th. 1801, he writes his anxiety regarding the burning of the Treasury Department lest maps and charts of Southern Boundaries might have been destroyed. Under date of March 30th. 1801, the office of Surveyor in the N. W. Territories was offered him. June, 1801, he writes to President Jefferson on the importance of observatories yet unknown in America. Oct. 10, 1801, has just accepted the charge of Pennsylvania Land Office. Feb. 7th, 1802, Major Ellicott replies to President Jefferson who has offered him the Surveyor Generalship of the United States—"Dear Sir;—Your favor of the 29th. ultimo has been received and the proposition which it contains I consider as one of the most honorable and flattering incidents of my life and were my own feelings and inclinations alone concerned I should not hesitate one moment in accepting the place you offer; but as there are some other considerations to be brought into view and duly weighed before I can give a definite answer I wish the subject to be delayed a few days."

Feb. 14th, 1802, he writes to President Jefferson his own proposed arrangement of executing the office of Surveyor General of the United States, and adds "if they coincide with your ideas upon that subject and come within the meaning of the law I shall have no objections to the appointment." May 10th, 1802, Major Ellicott writes his regrets to the President that his ideas of the duties of the Surveyor General, were not such as were thought consistent with existing laws, and adds "to your inquiry respecting the Almanac I can only answer I have no copy of it. It was the commencement of a work which at that time I expected would have been continued, it produced the thanks of President Washington and there ended." Nov. 2, 1802,

Dr. Rush encourages Major Ellicott to continue his Journal in the following language: "It cannot fail of placing your name with those of Franklin and Rittenhouse in the future history of the Philosophers who have lived in Pennsylvania in the present eventful History of the United States." Dr. Rush further writes of the epidemic character of Yellow fever which Andrew Ellicott strongly maintained: "Don't be afraid of offending our citizens, Europe and posterity will do you justice for the time must come when the belief in the importation of yellow fever will be viewed with the same emotions that we now view the belief of our ancestors in witch-craft and the Divine right of kings."

Ellicott had written President Jefferson of an account he had from France of a shower of stones. I cannot refrain from giving an amusing quotation from a letter from President Jefferson in reply Dec. 1803;—"I find nothing surprising in the raining of stones in France—nor yet had they been Mill stones. There are in France more real Philosophers than in any country on Earth but there are also a greater proportion of pseudo Philosophers there. The reason is that the exuberant imagination of a French-man gives him a greater facility of writing and runs away with his judgment unless he has a good stock of it. It even creates facts for him which never happened and he tells them with good faith. Count Rumford after discovering that cold is a positive body will doubtless find out that darkness is so too. As many as two or three times during my seven years residence in France new discoveries were made which over-set the whole Newtonian Philosophy." He asks if Major Ellicott can recommend proper measures for explorations in the S. W.

In May, 1807, Albert Gallatin writes that "the Presi-

dent of the United States being authorized to have certain surveys done has directed me to apply to you requesting that you would have the goodness to suggest the outlines of such a plan as in your opinion unite correctness with practicability."

Dec. 15th, 1810, a resolution passed the House of Representatives that Government employ Mr. Ellicott to ascertain the 35 degrees of North latitude, State of Georgia. July 28th, 1813, the Secretary of War enquired of Major Ellicott if the appointment of Prof. of Mathematics at West Point would be acceptable. September 2nd, 1813, the appointment was made. In 1817 he proceeded to Montreal by order of Government to make astronomical observations and to carry into effect some of the articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Much of his life while at West Point, was devoted to the study of Astronomy. He died at West Point—Aug. 28, 1820—in the 67th. year of his age. Andrew and Sarah Ellicott had ten children.

In the cemetery at West Point a monument fitly commemorates the life and death of this noble man, whose earlier years were passed in almost unrelenting, arduous and trying work. One can but feel grateful that his later years were passed in comparative ease in the pursuit of his favorite science; surrounded by those to whom he had shown such tender devotion, and with the grandeur of nature on every hand to minister to the love he had so frequently expressed for her. His scientific contributions adorn the publications of the Royal Academy of England, the National Institute of France; the Philadelphia Philosophical Society and the libraries of our country.

The largest work he left to posterity is the journal of Andrew Ellicott compiled during 1796, 1800—for determining the Boundary between the U. S. and the



Possessions of His Catholic Majesty in America, containing occasional remarks on the situation, soil, rivers, natural productions, and diseases of the different countries of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Gulf of Mexico, &c. A second edition was printed in 1803 for Thomas Dobson, Philadelphia. As great a length as this paper has reached--much of extreme interest has been omitted for the facts in the foregoing, I am indebted to work of partial compilation, of the late Rev. Malcolm Douglass, D. D., grandson of Andrew Ellicott, Mr. Charles Evans of Buffalo,--and to my honored father, the late Joseph C. G. Kennedy, LL. D.,--also a grandson of Andrew Ellicott.

The Columbia Historical Society having done me the honor to ask me to prepare a paper upon the **Life of Major Andrew Ellicott** my great-grandfather, I felt at once though with many misgivings, that a duty had come to me which, difficult as the task would be **must** be performed--difficult because so unaccustomed to such work--because there were so many sources of information which I could not reach and have the **article** written within the stipulated month. But I was **upheld** in my determination by the knowledge that **an** effort on my part, the best I could make, however **feeble**, would I hoped place Andrew Ellicott, where **he** belonged in the History of our beloved City and the country, and that in such effort, I would meet **with** the approval of my honored father.

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Columbia Historical Society, held in the Lecture Hall, Columbian University, Washington, D. C., June 8th, 1897, at 8 o'clock p. m.

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## REMINISCENCES OF THE MAYORS OF WASHINGTON.

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The Meeting was called to order by the President, Hon. JOHN A. KASSON.

The PRESIDENT: There was a resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Society, after hearing the very valuable paper read to us by Judge Hagner, for the appointment of a committee to memorialize Congress touching the nomenclature of the streets of Washington, and the Chair was directed to appoint that committee. The sub-committee for the selection of the members of that committee have announced the following members of the committee for the purpose named:

Messrs. M. I. Weller, Alexander B. Hagner, Marcus Baker, Lewis J. Davis, M. F. Morris, J. Ormond Wilson, to which committee they have added the President of this Society. The committee accordingly is appointed as named.

I have further to say to the Society that in making efforts to get some trace of a likeness of the well known Major L'Enfant, who was the surveyor and engineer laying out the city, and of whom we have had some very valuable papers presented, I wrote to Philadelphia to perhaps the oldest among the known citizens

of that city, Mr. Frederick Fraley, a very venerable man, who was a child at the time the Capitol was changed from Philadelphia, the seat of government, to Washington, hoping that he might have some memory of L'Enfant, and possibly might know where a portrait of him might be found. He responded in a very kindly and intelligent manner, in his old age, that he never did see Major L'Enfant, and knew no way by which his likeness could be obtained.

In further prosecuting the inquiry, I had heard of the Saint Minim collection of portraits, the property of the Corcoran Art Gallery, and it was thought by one of the Trustees, that a portrait of him would be found there in that very valuable collection, which is very large. Mr. Frederick McGuire, one of the trustees, writes that he cannot find the portrait in the St. Minim collection of L'Enfant, "but I do find one that may interest you. It is of Dr. William Thornton, whom Washington appointed Commissioner for laying out the Federal city. He made the design for the Capitol, and received a premium for the same".

So that, not finding what we want, we find the existence of another very valuable and historical portrait, connected with the history of this city. I thought it would interest the society to know that fact.

One other communication. You will remember your disappointment on the evening of Decoration Day on finding the Hall closed. The very worthy and distinguished President of the University has seen fit to write me a letter in which he requested me to make known to the audience his profound regret at the mistake of one of the subordinates in charge of the halls, and his forgetfulness in respect to the opening and lighting of the hall at the close of that holiday. Deeming it a holiday, he had entirely forgotten this special

appointment, and the building was closed. Dr. Whitman, of course, is without fault, and I thank him for the interest he has shown, and, at his request, announce his regrets and apology to the meeting.

This evening we have one of the most interesting topics connected with the history of Washington, and without any preliminary further than to say that one of the most eminent and distinguished of citizens of Washington, and one of its mayors, has consented to address you this evening, together with two or three papers which will be presented on that subject of great interest, I think, to the audience. I have the pleasure now of introducing our worthy and distinguished fellow citizen, Ex-Mayor James G. Berret, who will speak to you of the reminiscences of the Mayoralty.

## ADDRESS of Ex-Mayor JAMES G. BERRET.

Mr. President, I thank you very much for your agreeable and pleasant introduction, and to you, ladies and gentlemen, for your generous greeting, I tender the homage of a grateful heart.

I shall preface the few remarks that I propose to make on this occasion, by reminding you—this is historical evidence, and of course perfectly reliable—that:

“The District of Columbia was named in honor of Christopher Columbus, and also with reference to the poetical use of the term ‘Columbia,’ a designation of the United States. It formerly constituted the County of Washington, this term, however, being popularly confined to the portion outside of Washington and Georgetown, comprising the much larger portion of the District.

After the adoption of the Articles of Confederation, by the United States, the question of fixing the seat of government occasioned much sectional rivalry. During the period between the Revolutionary War and the adoption of the present Constitution, Congress met at Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton and New York. After the adoption of the Constitution, March 4, 1789, warm discussions took place in Congress in regard to the location of the capital. On June 28, 1790, an Act was passed containing the following:

‘That a district of territory, on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and the Connocheague, be, and the same is hereby accepted as, the seat of government of the United States.’

The same Act also provided that Congress should meet at Philadelphia until the first Monday in Novem-

ber, 1800, when the government should remove to the district selected on the Potomac.

The area fixed upon was 10 miles square, or 100 square miles. This embraced 64 miles of Maryland soil, constituting the County of Washington, which was ceded by that state to the United States in 1788, and 36 square miles of Virginia soil, constituting the County of Alexandria, ceded in 1789. The portion on the Virginia side of the Potomac was retroceded to that state in 1846.

Mr. President, my acquaintance with Washington began fifty-eight years ago Friday next. Upon reaching the capital I found it what might be termed a straggling village. There was but one public mode of transportation north of the Potomac, leading into Washington. That was the Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

I remember well the impression that it made upon me. The train of cars consisted of one passenger car, a portion of which was devoted to the storage of baggage, and the engine. We approached the depot, which was formed of a dwelling house which had been utilized for that purpose by removing the interior up to the second story. The engine brought us within a short distance of this old house, and we were pushed in by the engine switching down and driving it at the other end. This depot was located on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, about 150 feet from what was then called the Tiber. It will be remembered, and I have no doubt you will be told to-night by several gentlemen who are to address you, that the condition of Washington, as compared with what we now realize, was something marvelous. There was not a paved street in the city. The sidewalks were very imperfect. The crossings from one side of the street to the other were formed

by flagstones of about a foot in dimension, so that the citizens desiring to pass from one side of the street to the other had to find the corner of the street before they had reached this passage-way. There was no gas-light and no water except what was taken from the pumps and they were distributed all over the city with reference to the accommodation of the population. It frequently happened that a pump would get out of order and that always created trouble in the neighborhood, not only with the families, but with the servants, who had to travel off a square or two to find a pump and get water for culinary purposes and other domestic wants.

I recollect that upon the arrival of President Harrison here after his election in 1840, a very large crowd was attracted to this depot—large for Washington in that day, some prompted by a desire to pay their respects to the incoming President, and others undoubtedly attracted by curiosity. It was an extremely inclement day; so much so that it would be difficult to imagine that people could be attracted from their homes for any such reason, without facilities such as we have now for passing from one portion of the city to the other. There were no carriages nor omnibuses nor conveyances of any sort; so that whoever went to see the President-elect, traveled on foot, with the use of an umbrella, and a great number of them cotton umbrellas at that.

The President himself, an old soldier, declined the conveyance from the depot to the point at which he was to hold a reception, but insisted upon walking; and the people present held their umbrellas in such a manner that they would afford convenient protection, at least from above, on his transit from the depot to the city Hall, where he went arm-in-arm with Gen. Seaton, who subsequently became Mayor.

It will be borne in mind that the revenues of Washington at that day were very limited. The making of improvements such as were rendered necessary for the comfort and convenience of the people was a thing utterly out of the question; so that the most that could be done was to provide a passage-way, if I may so use the term. The streets were all mud; the gutters were formed of cobble-stones rendered necessary to carry off the drainage, which at that time was entirely upon the surface. The lighting, of course, was with oil lamps, sparsely distributed, and on dark nights the population had to grope their way about the town as best they could. This state of things continued up to the advent of Mr. Seaton, as Mayor, in 1840; but still he was without means, with all the liberality that characterized his generous nature, to do anything that would advance and produce a greater amount of comfort than the people then enjoyed.

But with all these difficulties, Washington possessed many advantages for the social enjoyment and comfort of her population. Congress met at the usual period and came here to stay. The members located themselves for the Session. They identified themselves with the people of the city, and exchanged a generous hospitality; so that from a social point of view, certainly, that period marked an agreeable era in the history of Washington life.

Advancing along a little further, we find the city somewhat disturbed by a disorderly element, introduced from a neighboring city. I come now to the year 1856. I omit the period between 1840 and 1856, for the reason that there are gentlemen here to night who will speak of those periods more intelligently and more knowingly than it is in my power to do.

The election of Dr. Magruder took place in 1856. He



was a man of considerable learning and of high personal character. Indeed, I might say, in common parlance, that he was a very able man. He stood very high in his profession—pre-eminently so; but as a financier, I am sure he never claimed to be anything more than a tyro. His administration was characterized by one very striking event, which never had taken place before at the Capital of the Nation. A disorderly band of what might be called the very worst class of ruffians presented themselves here in the broad light of day and undertook to possess themselves of the town. They marched fearlessly through the streets. They knew what they were going to do, and intimidated both men and women. Dr. Magruder, exercising the authority devolved upon him, and the duty which he felt imposed upon him, called upon the executive for assistance in suppressing these riotous intruders. It will be remembered that at that time there was no organized police force in the city, so that the Mayor was powerless to suppress this organization, and it became necessary to call for aid, which was promptly rendered to him by an order from the President upon the officer in command of the Marine corps, and a company was placed at the disposal of the Mayor for the maintenance of the public peace. Fortunately that command devolved upon a very discreet and able officer who, without any great sacrifice, succeeded in suppressing this mob, and they were driven from the city; but it left behind very many disagreeable feelings amongst several classes of the people, who sympathized with or against the conduct of these people.

There were two organizations here of volunteer firemen. They were politically hostile to each other, and upon many an occasion, whenever the opportunity afforded, and they came together by a false alarm of

fire or otherwise, disorder generally obtained; but with a very small guard, what was called the auxiliary guard, organized by authority of congress, these small difficulties were easily taken care of.

I now reach a period in Washington's history in which it devolved upon me to take part in the conduct of our municipal affairs. At the election which was to take place on the 1st Monday of June, 1858, there was very great excitement, caused by the candidacy which preceded the election. The two parties were arrayed against each other with all the zeal and energy and enterprise which might be expected from parties ambitious for success. It was generally supposed and apprehended by many that the election would be attended with some disagreeable conduct on the part of these people, who were likely to appear again in Washington and interfere with the peaceful and orderly election, but in order to avoid such an occurrence Col. William Selden, then United States Marshal for the District of Columbia, thought it necessary for the preservation of the government property and the maintenance of the public peace, to exercise his authority, and he did so by the organization of a mounted guard of deputy United States marshals. They were stationed at the City Hall and at stated hours of the day, by his order, I think, they would canvass the city mounted. It was a wise precaution as the result proved. The election passed off very quietly, and he who now addresses you had the honor of being elected over his very popular opponent, Mr. Richard Wallack. (Applause.) I must be frank to say that I never entered upon a duty before or since feeling more the great responsibility that devolved upon me. I knew the elements that prevailed at that time in the city thoroughly. I had familiarized myself with them be-

fore, and during the canvass which resulted in that election; so that on the day of my installation, and within an hour thereafter, I invited a meeting of the Councils to assemble the following Monday. They did so, and I communicated a message to them, recommending the immediate organization of a police force of one hundred men, in order that I might have, without calling upon the military authorities, power necessary to maintain the peace and order of the City. If there are any gentlemen present here to-night familiar with those days, they cannot fail to know the serious apprehension that was felt by all persons who undertook to traverse the City, outside of the main thoroughfares, at late hours of the night. The Councils promptly responded to that recommendation. I appointed one hundred policemen, and selected as their commander, an able and discreet man who, I think, possessed higher qualities for that kind of service than any man I ever have known or seen before or since, Captain John H. Goddard, with two lieutenants, equally reliable, but of course not so efficient. It was a very few days before it became apparent that the peace and order of the City had been thoroughly established, which I attribute to the efficiency and zeal of Captain Goddard, to whom all honor and praise should be given.

The disturbing element at that time was assisted, as I have before stated, by these two engine companies. I found, upon examination of the authority given to the mayor over the volunteer companies, that I had power to disband a fire company. I promptly exercised that power. I disbanded both of them. Of course they resisted and talked against it, and thought it was very harsh treatment and all that sort of thing; but still, I thought it was to their interest as well as

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to the interest of the community, that they should be put out of harm's way. The Northern Liberty Company occupied a house which was used regularly for that purpose, nearly where the old Northern Liberty Market stood. Immediately upon their disbandment, I had the building turned over to the Trustees of the Public Schools, and it was made into a public school building. It is now used on an enlarged scale, and is known as the Abbot School. I think that movement, although I say it myself, had a salutary influence in bringing about the condition of things which followed.

During my term of four years,—I was subsequently re-elected—the revenues of the City were very small. They never reached, I think \$300,000, and we had a debt of about \$2,000,000 or more, upon which the interest had to be paid; so that you can readily perceive that there was but little margin for the development of a great city, formed upon the plan of Washington. But still, we did the best we could; and it is due to Congress to say that when they found this measure we had adopted of organizing a police force was an efficient one, they promptly consented to the payment of one-half of the expenses consequent upon the organization.

With less than \$300,000 revenue, of course nothing could be done of very much account. We managed to keep out of debt. We managed to sustain the public schools which at that time afforded a limited education to some five thousand children, but not of a very high standard. The teachers were all highly reputable people, and consequently became prominent as educators in the public schools.

Congress was very little disposed, as everybody in Washington knows, to do anything looking to any great development of Washington City; and that feeling arose

simply from the fact that there was no permanency attached to the Capital in its then location. The exciting questions growing out of the agitation of slavery at every presidential election threatened some disaster to Washington, and affected very seriously the values of real estate property in the town. That continued until 1850, when, through the patriotic efforts of such men as Webster and Clay and Crittendon and Hunter and Mason and William H. Seward, and a host of other prominent men, measuring up to the standard of those whom I have mentioned, there was passed what was called the Compromise Bill of 1850. That seemed to bring repose to the country; so that in the presidential election of 1852, the excitement which had occurred in the previous ones had entirely subsided, and the election of General Pierce, over his distinguished competitor, General Scott, by a vote which wiped out every idea of sectional feeling, seemed to give courage to the people of Washington that their future would be assured.

Well, we all know how long that lasted. During the administration of the successor of General Pierce, Mr. Buchanan, of course this question arose again in another form. The same embittered feeling which had existed prior to that time, again sprung up all over the land, and finally, after the election of Mr. Lincoln, it culminated in what we know and have realized to be one of the most heart-rending disasters that ever had befallen a great people, taught to believe that this Nation, having the proud boast of being a government resting directly upon the will of the people, would never be drawn into a contest such as existed in this country from 1861 to 1865.

But I pass that over. After these troubles had subsided, Washington was still in the same condition

which existed when President Lincoln took possession of his office. He was undoubtedly very friendly to Washington, and very ambitious that something should be done to advance its interests, and would very gladly have done so, but for the more engrossing subjects which necessarily occupied his attention, during the continuance of the War of the Rebellion.

But Washington still had a future; and when the Congress of the United States changed the local form of government by the appointment of a Governor and the election of a Delegate to Congress, the appointment of a Legislative Council, the election of the House of Delegates and the appointment of the Board of Public Works, the people seemed to take courage. At the head of the Board of Public Works was Governor Shepherd, a man of great energy, liberal views and full of enterprise. He formulated a plan of improvement upon a scale so large as to startle the whole community. A great many of us thought that we were to be sold out, to use a cant phrase of that day—taxed out of the last foot of ground that we owned. He continued in the office of Vice-President of the Board of Public Works until the resignation of Governor Cook, when he became Governor, and in that capacity served for one year, prosecuting with greater vigor his plan of improvements; but such was the hostility aroused against him, that Congress, without consulting the people of the town, repealed the law under which he held his office and provided for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners composed of gentlemen who had no local interest in the City of Washington. General Grant, however, felt that under the authority of the law, he had a right to appoint Shepherd on that Board. He accordingly sent his name to the Senate, but notwithstanding the prestige of

Grant's great name and high office, the Senate rejected Shepherd by three votes.

Shepherd remained here several years, seeking, I suppose, to recover his lost fortunes, and finally resolved on self-exile in a neighboring Republic. Prior to his departure, in 1879 I think it was—I am not certain as to dates, for I am relying entirely upon my memory now for what I give you as facts—a public dinner was given by many of the prominent and unofficial men in Washington, at which Chief Justice Miller presided; and in the course of his remarks he expressed the greatest sympathy for Shepherd, and the belief that the time would come when his treatment would be atoned for by the very people who condemned him.

Well, sure enough, Shepherd went to Mexico to develop an abandoned mine, and applied the great energies of his character to the work, under new auspices, new machinery, and all the appliances which had been discovered up to that time. He returned here after five or six years, and, be it said to the honor of the people who condemned him, and many who did not approve of his conduct in the lavish expenditure of the public money, on his return he received an ovation, such as I do not believe has ever been extended to any public man in or out of office within my knowledge. He was tendered, for the first time, by the authorities of the City, the freedom of the City, under the broad seal of the City. It was a proud day for him, undoubtedly, and was creditable to those who believed that through his efforts, in a large degree we are now enjoying the advantages of one of the most beautiful cities upon the face of the earth, furnishing all the luxuries, and a generous system of embellishment and decoration—a fine system of sewerage, abundant supply of

water, beautiful paved streets, admirable side-walks, and a vast amount of parking, all of which is enjoyed by those who own property, without the payment of taxes.

But it seems to me, for reasons which must be obvious to everyone within the sound of my voice, that although the future of Washington is unquestionably assured by reason of the generous and patriotic spirit which pervades the land in favor of its development and beautification, we have not yet reached the point where further and needful improvements are unnecessary.

It has occurred to me, and I will make bold to state it, that, in the first place, we should get rid of a festering sore, which is a constant menace to the health of the entire city. I mean the eastern branch flats. I think further that all the bridges contemplated to bring Maryland more closely to Washington over the Eastern Branch should be speedily constructed. And that our National Park, for which Nature has done so much, should be at once put in a condition for the use of the people not only of this City but those who visit Washington. Also the Riverside Park, just brought into existence by the same process which I hope in the near future will be utilized in the Eastern Branch, to produce what may then be called the Eastern Branch Park.

Another needed improvement in Washington is a building adequate for all municipal purposes, and for the business of this District. Public buildings of every kind might at once be put under way. The Long Bridge, which is certainly not an attractive object to the eye, or creditable to the architecture of the present age, ought to be reconstructed upon the plan recommended by General Jackson, when President of the United States.



And last, though not least, I would like to live to see the contemplated memorial bridge to connect Washington with Arlington.

I think with these improvements, and many others that might be named, Washington would rise to the dignity of a capital worthy of a great Nation of free-men, whose institutions are worthy of such a capital, and who are entitled to it as a better means of illustrating the genius of a free government resting upon the will of the people.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

The PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, we have had great pleasure in listening to one of the only two surviving ex-mayors of Washington. We have the pleasure also of having present with us the other surviving ex-mayor of Washington, Matthew G. Emery, whom I know it will give you great pleasure to see, although he persists he is not to be heard to-night. I wish he were to be heard.

The next in the order of business for the evening is an address on Peter Force, one of the Mayors of Washington, and his life-long service, I may say, to the country, which will be given to you by our eminent fellow citizens, Mr. A. R. Spofford, the United States Librarian.





From a photograph by Alexander Gardner about 1860

**PETER FORCE.**

BORN 1790, NOVEMBER 26. DIED 1868, JANUARY 23.

bodies, and in 1836 he was elected mayor of Washington, and served by re-election four years—until 1840. Besides thus filling with signal ability and dignity the highest civil offices in the gift of his fellow-citizens, he was also honored with the highest military office, having been made successively captain, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and major-general in the militia of the District of Columbia. He was also for some years president of the National Institute for the promotion of science.

But the great distinctive service rendered by Peter Force to his countrymen was far above the province of the highest official station or military rank. Very early in life he evinced a zealous interest in historical investigations, and four years after coming to Washington he originated and published an annual devoted to recording the facts of history, with statistical and official information of a varied character. This "National Calendar and Annals of the United States," as he called it, antedated by ten years the publication of the old American Almanac, and was continuously published here from 1820 to 1836, except the years 1825, 1826, and 1827, when none were printed. In 1823 Force established a semi-weekly newspaper, the *National Journal*, which became a daily in 1824, and was continued until 1831. This journal was independent in politics, with moderate and conservative views upon public questions, and it drew to its columns some noted contributors, among them John Quincy Adams.

The high-minded conduct of this paper in doing justice to the opponents of the administration once led to a committee of the ruling party (which it then supported) waiting upon Colonel Force and asking him to permit them to edit or revise the political columns

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with a view to more thorough partisan effect. They little knew the independent character of the man with whom they had to deal. Colonel Force drew himself up to his full height (he was six feet tall) and with that dignity of bearing which sat so naturally upon him, with his clear gray eyes fixed upon his visitors, he said: "I did not suppose that any gentleman would make such a proposition to me."

Among Mr. Force's publications of greatest value to the students of history were the series, in four octavo volumes, of Force's "Historical Tracts." These were reprints of the rarest early pamphlets concerning America, long out of print, and some of which he could not procure or else could not afford to own, but borrowed them from libraries for the purpose of reproducing them. "Whenever," said he, "I found a little more money in my purse than I absolutely needed, I printed a volume of Tracts." Many of the *rarissimi* of early American history or exploration owe to Peter Force their sole chance of preservation.

The series of American Archives, the great monumental work of his life, was published at intervals from 1837 to 1853. It embraces the period of history from 1774 to December, 1776, in nine stately folio volumes, printed in double column and most thoroughly indexed. These archives constitute a thesaurus of original information about the two most momentous years of the Revolutionary struggle, and especially concerning the Declaration of Independence, of inestimable value. To this work, the bold conception of his own mind, to contain nothing less than the original fountains of American history, reproduced in systematic chronological order, he dedicated his long and useful life. For it he assembled, with keen, discriminating judgment and unwearied toil, that great col-

lection of historical material which now forms an invaluable part of the Congressional Library.

Nor was the literary and historical zeal of the subject of our sketch by any means confined to the early history of America. He dignified and adorned his profession of printer, as did Benjamin Franklin before him, by original authorship in many fields. He was profoundly interested in the annals of the art of printing and the controversies over its true inventor. He gathered by assiduous search a small library of *incunabula*, or books printed in the infancy of the art, representing every year from 1467 (his earliest black-letter imprint) up to 1500 and later. He studied the subject of Arctic explorations, collecting all books published in that field, and himself writing upon it. He was the first to discover and publish in the columns of the *National Intelligencer* the true history of the Mecklenburg "Declaration of Independence" of May, 1775, proving by contemporaneous newspapers he had acquired that the true resolutions were of date May 31, and that the so-called declaration of May 20, was spurious.

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#### MR FORCE AS A COLLECTOR OF BOOKS

No man living can fully tell the story of that devoted, patient, assiduous life-labor spent in one fixed spot, surrounded by the continually growing accessions of books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts, maps, and engravings which contributed to throw light upon some period of his vast inquiry. To say that his library alone filled seven commodious rooms to overflowing; that it embraced besides the largest

assemblage of books ever then accumulated by a private citizen in this country, thirty thousand pamphlets and eight hundred volumes of newspapers; that it was rich in Revolutionary autographs, maps, portraits, and engravings, and that it embraced between forty and fifty thousand titles—all this is to convey but a mechanical idea of the life-long and unintermitted labor which Mr. Force expended upon his favorite subject. He began to collect American books long before the birth of the extensive and mostly undiscerning mania of book-collecting which has of late years become the rage, and he continued the unceasing pursuit until the very week before he was laid in his coffin. He carried off prizes at auctions which no competitor had the knowledge or the nerve to dispute with him. He ransacked the book-shops of the United States from Boston to Charleston for rare volumes.

He had agents to pick up "unconsidered trifles" out of the garrets of New England housewives, and he read eagerly all the multifarious catalogues which swarmed in upon him of books on sale in London and on the continent. On one occasion he was a bidder against the United States for a large and valuable library of bound pamphlets, the property of an early collector, which were brought to the hammer in Philadelphia. The Library of Congress had sent on a bid (a limited one) for the coveted volumes; but Mr. Force's order (intrusted to his agent attending the sale) was peremptory and unlimited, "Buy me those pamphlets in an unbroken lot." They were bought. He knew well enough how to make a bargain, and his purchases were often made at prices which would now seem fabulously cheap; yet he never boggled at a high price when once he was satisfied that he had an opportunity to procure a rare or unique volume, which might never

again be offered to competition. Thus, he used to tell how he had once tried to buy two thin foolscap volumes containing Major General Greene's original manuscript letters and dispatches during the Southern Revolutionary campaign of 1781-'82. The price demanded was two hundred dollars. Mr Force offered one hundred and fifty dollars, which was refused. He then offered fifty dollars for the privilege of taking a copy. This was also declined. Seeing that he could not otherwise possess himself of them, he wisely paid the two hundred dollars, and marched off with the precious volumes under his arm.

Out of his multitude of pamphlets he had many which could not have cost him sixpence each, but there were others for which he had readily paid from two to twenty dollars apiece, rather than go without them. He carried off from an antiquarian bookseller in Boston the only file of Boston Revolutionary newspapers which had been offered for sale in a quarter of a century, and when good-naturedly reproached by some Yankee visitors for thus stripping New England, he conclusively replied: "Why didn't you buy them yourselves, then?" To the last he was untiring in his efforts to secure complete and unbroken files of all the Washington newspapers. These were carefully laid in piles day by day, after such perusal as he chose to give them, and the mass of journals thus accumulated for thirty years or upward filled the large basement of his house nearly full. His file of the printed "Army orders" issued by the War Department was a miracle of completeness, and it was secured only by the same untiring vigilance which he applied to all matters connected with the increase of his library. With the weight of seventy-five winters on his shoulders, he would drag himself up to the War Department regu-



larly to claim from some officer who knew him and his passion the current additions to the printed series of Army orders promulgated in all branches of the service during the civil war. He thus secured for his private collection, now become the historic heirloom of the American people, articles which librarians and other functionaries, trusting to official channels of communication alone, seek in vain to secure.

But Mr. Force was no mere collector of books. He was a man who knew how to use them. Every volume which he added to his richly laden shelves was added with a purpose. Every pamphlet, hand-bill, or newspaper was hailed as it contributed to throw some light upon the history or politics of the past or to illustrate some character in the long picture-gallery of departed American worthies. The greater portion of the volumes in his library, especially the Revolutionary newspapers and pamphlets, were filled with marks and memoranda indicating his careful study and repeated examination. References to other and collateral authorities, notes showing where further information had been published or was to be found, references to catalogues of early printed works, where any volumes of ancient typography had been described—all these and similar elucidations were scattered through the well-thumbed and dusty volumes.

It was not alone with reference to Revolutionary history that Mr Force's zeal as a historical student was enlisted. He had a passion for the art of printing—his own early chosen profession—and had collected a larger library of books printed in the infancy of the art than any public library in the United States could then boast of.

He became widely known as a collector, and books, pamphlets, and periodicals, with frequent offers of

manuscripts, came pouring in upon him. He culled from all what he wanted, and by the steady accretion of years the long, rambling mansion on the corner of Tenth and D streets became filled to overflowing with this great library of facts and documents. There dwelt the sage among his books from an early hour in the morning until late at night.

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### THE HISTORICAL STUDENT AT HIS WORK.

Let us endeavor to picture our departed friend, who lived to be the worthy mentor of more than a generation of historical students. As a printer he was devoted to his art, and many volumes or pamphlets remain to us bearing the imprint of Peter Force, or of Davis & Force, the former his accomplished partner in the noble art preservative of all other arts. After he ceased to print, and grew to be a devotee to the single aim of historical inquiry, he became more of a recluse than in earlier years. He saw no company save a few chosen friends, and alike to curiosity-hunters and to autograph fiends he turned a justly deaf ear. It was my good fortune in those closing years to see him daily, and in his company to go through all the more precious stores of his vast collection. At eight o'clock each morning I found him always immersed in work, collating or writing amid heaps of historical lore—

Books to the right of him.  
Books to the left of him.  
Books behind him  
Volleyed and tumbled.

No luxurious library appointments, no glazed book-cases of walnut or mahogany, no easy chairs inviting to soft repose or slumber were there; but only plain,

rough pine shelves and pine tables, heaped with books, pamphlets, and journals, overflowed seven spacious rooms and littered. Among them moved familiarly two or more favorite old dogs, for the lonely scholar had pets, as he always was of children. He ate of bread or broken meat or a saucer of his favorites in the intervals of his work. He wore a woolen wrapper or dressing-gown, then he came from his books with a placid smile (like that of many men of leonine and lioness) and his smile was of singular sweetness. He went through the various treasures of the library, enabling me to make the needful notes. In Congress, he had frequent incidents. He had picked up many a gem on neglected shelves or from street book-stalls; he had competed at auction for a coveted volume; he had won in triumph; how he had by mere chance obtained an imperfect copy of Stith's *Virginia* from a heap of printed rubbish a missing precious old pamphlet and early printed books had been fished by him out of chests and garrets of Virginia and Maryland. His work-room was a little garden (near the brick edifice erected for the late Stilson Hutchins) in which he had allowed to grow to stately size, interspersed with bushes and box and tangled shrubs a retreat or thicket he called his "secret garden." He took delight in walking when he was not doing his sedentary work. His manners were simple, his conversation fluent, his tones modulated and often enlivened by an undercurrent.

Without egotism or pretension, he was ever ready to impart to inquirers from his full stores of wisdom and experience, while cherishing a wholesome horror of pretenders and of bores. So hospitable was his intellectual attitude that what a simple Scottish swain said of Sir Walter Scott might well be applied to him: "He always talks to me as if I was equal to him—and to think *that* of a mon that has such an awful knowledge o' history!"

In his physical aspect Peter Force was a man of marked and impressive personality. Of stalwart build, his massive head covered to the last with a profusion of curling hair, his erect bearing, keen vision, and dignity of port impressed the most casual beholder. Once seen, he was not one to be forgotten, for the personal impress was that of a man cast in a heroic mould. Addicted to study as he was and living a singularly laborious life, he yet took active exercise in long walks, and his familiar aspect and courteous recognition was an every-day benison in Washington streets, for he had the respect of all men. His domestic life was singularly fortunate. He brought up and educated a family of seven well-gifted children, some of whom inherited the paternal zeal for historical investigation and produced writings of recognized value.

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#### PLAN OF THE AMERICAN ARCHIVES.

The one great object which overshadowed all other objects with Mr Force was to amass the materials out of which a complete documentary history of the United States could be compiled. His labors as a historiographer are known to comparatively few, since

the great bulk and cost of the published volumes of his "American Archives" confine them chiefly to the large libraries of the country; but by all students of our Revolutionary history and all writers upon it, especially, his work is estimated at its true value. The plan of it comprised, in the language of its prospectus, "a collection of authentic records, State papers, debates, and letters, and other notices of public affairs, the whole forming a documentary history of the origin and progress of the North American colonies, of the causes and accomplishment of the American Revolution, and of the Constitution and Government of the United States to the final ratification thereof."

His contract with the Department of State (executed in pursuance of an act of Congress) was to embrace about twenty folio volumes. He entered into the work with such zeal that the fourth series, in six volumes, was completed and published in the seven years from 1837 to 1844. Three more volumes, forming the commencement of the fifth series, and bringing the history down to the close of 1776, were also printed, when Secretary Marcy arbitrarily stopped the work by withholding his approval of the contents of the volumes submitted to him for the continuation. This was about the year 1853, and this sudden and unlooked-for interruption of his cherished plan and demolition of the fair and perfect historical edifice which was to be his life-long labor and his monument of fame was a blow from which he never fully recovered. It was not alone that he had entered upon a scale of expenditure for materials commensurate with the projected extent of the work; that he had procured at great cost thousands of pages of manuscript, copied from the original archives of the various colonies and the State Department; that he had amassed an enormous library of

books and newspapers which filled his whole house and encroached so heavily upon his means that he was driven to mortgage his property to meet his bills; but it was the rude interruption of a great national work by those incompetent to judge of its true merits; it was the petty and vexatious and unjust rescinding by an officer of the Government of a contract to which he had reason to believe that the faith of the Government was pledged. Mr Force was already over sixty years of age when this event happened. He never renewed his labor upon the archives; the unpublished masses of manuscript remained in the very spot where his work upon them had been broken off, and he could never allude to the subject without some pardonable bitterness of feeling. Friends urged him to appeal to Congress; to try to prevail with new Secretaries of State to renew the work; to sue for damages; to petition for relief. Not one of these things would he do. He had a sensitive pride of character, joined to a true stoic loftiness of mind. An ordinary man would have besieged Congress with his claims and enlisted all his friends in clamorous efforts for some reparation. Not so Peter Force; he could suffer, but he could not beg. There was an assurance of dignity in his very look, which repelled all idea that he would ever be engaged in a scramble for filthy lucre, however unjustly it might be denied him. He never approached a member of Congress upon the subject nor asked a favor where he might have justly claimed a right. He bore his heavy burdens manfully, cheered by no hope of recompense, struggling with debt, but still enduring, still laboring day by day amidst his books, and hospitably receiving and answering all persons who called for information and historical aid. For this unrecompensed service, which became a constantly increasing tax upon

his time he got only thanks. He never made any overtures to sell his library to the Government, nor did he, until two or three years before his decease, entertain any idea of parting with it in his lifetime.

Many proposals had been made to him to buy his collection, either as a whole or by portions, and tempting offers of money had been steadily refused. Finally in 1866, the matter was taken up in earnest by the Librarian of Congress, who shared in the strongest manner the conviction of those who knew its value, that it would be a national misfortune and disgrace if this great historical library should go the way of all other libraries and be hopelessly dispersed; and Mr Force consented to part with the entire collection for the price that had been put upon it by parties who sought to buy it for New York, namely, \$100,000. The press of the country warmly seconded the effort, and the appropriation went through Congress without a word of objection in either House—a rare example of wise and liberal legislation effected on its own merits, without a dollar being expended by anybody or a particle of “lobby” influence in any direction in its favor.

The transfer of the library to the Capitol took place in the spring of 1867. It was watched with careful interest by its venerable owner, who was left to his desolated shelves, and would often lament that he never felt at home without his old and cherished companions around him. He was given free access to the Library of Congress, and invited to take a desk there and continue his studies, but though he often came to the Library, he could not bring himself to sit down and work there. He greatly enjoyed the visits of his children to Washington, and would always insist on walking with them to the Capitol, where he several times ascended the dome—two hundred and eighty feet—with all the ardor of a youth.

His life seemed good for eighty or ninety years until within three months before his death, when his digestive powers began to fail him. He soon reached the point where he could no longer take solid food, from which his strength failed slowly and steadily, and he grew more and more emaciated, though free from pain, until the 23d of January, 1868, when his spirit passed quietly away.

His remains were borne to the grave in the beautiful Rock Creek Cemetery by Richard Wallach, mayor of Washington; George W. Riggs, Thomas Blagden, Dr John B. Blake, Prof. Joseph Henry, Dr William Gunton, J. Carroll Brent, and James C. McGuire—all now departed from the world.

On his grave his children erected a marble monument, on which is carved above the name of Force, as a beautiful and appropriate device, a shelf of books bearing nine volumes, inscribed "American Archives," with a civic crown of laurel.

But his library and his unfinished historical archives are his fitting monument, and these will preserve his name to the future ages of the great Republic as a pure and unselfish patriot and sage, who knew how to labor and to wait.

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The PRESIDENT: I am very glad to be informed that before the next paper is read on the First Mayor of the City, ex-Mayor Emery has so far reconsidered his declination, as to express his willingness to say a word.

Mr. EMERY: Mr. President, I wish to say a word in justice to myself. Until I came on to the stage, I was not aware that I was announced to address the meet-



ing to-night. Something over two weeks ago I received a note from the Secretary of the Association, telling me that I would be expected to address the meeting which was to have occurred last week. I replied by saying that I should be absent from the City, and could not possibly comply with the request; I was not aware until yesterday that the meeting was not held last week. I supposed it was. Seeing my name in the list of those announced to speak, I felt I ought to say something, in justice to myself. As I say, I will make no attempt to address the Association. I have not prepared myself at all, and for that reason I do not think I ought to attempt it. I simply felt that I ought to say this much to the Association.

I will say this, however. I came to the City the same year my friend here did, in 1839. I have lived here since that time. My knowledge of the City of Washington is perhaps not equal to that of my friend, but I have a pretty good knowledge of Washington and its affairs, and if I had had time to prepare an address suitable to the occasion, it would have given me great pleasure to have rehearsed some of the incidents that have transpired in my career here. I have taken an active part in the politics of the City, in my early life. I was elected to the Board of Aldermen the first time in 1854, and since that time, as long as we had Mayors, I took an active part in the City politics, and consequently have a pretty good knowledge of what was going on. I am not prepared to rehearse those things to-night, but I will merely state that it would have given me great pleasure, had I been prepared, to address you on this occasion.

The PRESIDENT: We are very much obliged to ex-mayor Emery for the pledge he has now made to prepare a paper for us at one of our meetings next winter.

I now have the pleasure of introducing to you Dr. J. D. Morgan, who will speak briefly of the First Mayor of the City, Mr. Robert Brent.

Dr. MORGAN: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I might state, in preface of my remarks, that through the courtesy of Mrs. Goodfellow, I am permitted to exhibit the portrait of Robert Brent, the first Mayor of Washington, painted from life, and I believe painted by Rembrandt Peale, the great Anglo-American portrait painter of that time. I will pass around the photograph taken from this portrait.

**ROBERT BRENT,  
FIRST MAYOR OF WASHINGTON CITY.**

**By**

**James Dudley Morgan, M. D.**

**Read before the Society June 8th, 1897.**

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**Robert Brent, where born; ancestors; relationship.**

Robert Brent, the first Mayor of Washington City in the District of Columbia, was born 1764, at Woodstock estate, in the town of Acquia (exhibit 1), in Stafford County, Virginia, and was the second son of Robert Brent and Anne Carroll. His mother, Anne, was the daughter of Daniel Carroll, of Montgomery County, Maryland, and sister of Archbishop John Carroll; and after her husband's death in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1780, she removed to the residence of her only daughter, Mrs. George Digges, at Green Hill, Prince George's County, Maryland, where she departed this life, 1804.

George Brent, the great-great-grandfather of Robert Brent, the Mayor, was the first of the Woodstock or Acquia branch of the Brent family, who came to America, and was a man of much influence and ability.

Robert Brent (exhibit 2), the Mayor, and the fifth in the line of descent in America, was married in 1787 to Mary, the eldest daughter of Notley Young, of Prince George's County, one of the original proprietors of Washington. Robert Brent lived for a number of years with his father-in-law at the comfortable and substantial residence known as the Mansion House,

EXHIBIT 2



ROBERT BRENT,

THE FIRST MAYOR "OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA."

quarries at Acquia, and Major L'Enfant, concerning the prices to be paid for the lease of the quarries, whether £1500 or £1800, and both Daniel and Robert Brent (exhibits 5) defended their uncle George Brent, one of the lessors, from imputations of exorbitant charges for the use of the quarries. Daniel Brent, under date of February 3rd, 1792, writing his brother, Robert Brent, about the charges made concerning the quarries, says, "we must resque the character of the Brents from an imputation so foul in its nature and so utterly devoid of truth."

These quarries furnished a great amount of stone for the bridges and buildings of Philadelphia. Robert Brent writes from Acquia, November 24, 1791, to his brother Daniel in Philadelphia: "A load of stone would have been sent some time ago to Philadelphia, could a vessel have been got; when one is to be got, it will be shipped." About this same time, February, 1791, Daniel writes to Robert, and it is on a subject with which we are thoroughly familiar and appreciate, "that he would like to get Billy (his brother) a place under the Government, that there were 30 to 40 applicants for every place and all applicants were of the most exemplary character and had the strongest influence."

"Residence for general government." Commissioners for "territory of Columbia." Incorporation of the City of Washington. Appointment of Mayor.

The bill for the location of the general government at a permanent seat was passed and received the President's approval July 16, 1790. The subject first came up in the House of Representatives August 26, 1789, on a motion by Mr. Scott of Pennsylvania, "that a

permanent residence ought to be fixed for the general government." In January, 1791, Washington appointed Thomas Johnson, Daniel Carroll of Maryland and Dr. David Stuart of Virginia as commissioners for the "territory of Columbia." This superintendence of the city continued until May 1802, when the Board of Commissioners was abolished. The Act incorporating "the inhabitants of the City of Washington in the District of Columbia" was passed by Congress and approved the 3rd of May, 1802, by which Act the President appointed the Mayor annually, and the two branches of the council were elected by the people.

Robert Brent was appointed by President Jefferson June 1st, 1802, Mayor of the City of Washington, and was reappointed each year for ten successive terms. He several times accepted the office under protest, and finally declined to serve longer. He served until the second Monday in June, 1812, when by Act of Congress passed May 4, 1812, the duty of electing a Mayor devolved on the city council.

The letter of President Jefferson to Robert Brent tendering him the Mayoralty, and his (Robert Brent's) reply will now be read. Also the original commission of the appointment (Exhibit 6) of Robert Brent, Mayor of the City of Washington.

Washington, June 3, 1802.

Dear Sir:

The Act of Congress incorporating the city of Washington has confided to the President of the U. S. the appointment of the Mayor of the city. As the agency of that officer will be immediately requisite, I am desirous to avail the city of your services in it, if you will permit me to send you the commission. I will ask the favor of an answer to this proposition.

Will you also do me that of dining with me the day after tomorrow (Friday) at half after three? Accept my friendly and respectful salutations.

TH: JEFFERSON.

To Robert Brent, Esq.

Washington, June 3d, 1802.

Dear Sir:

I have had the honor of receiving your favor of this date, asking my acceptance of the appointment of Mayor under the late Act of Congress for incorporating this city.

Altho I feel great diffidence in the talents I possess for executing that duty, in a manner which may afford general satisfaction, yet feeling it a duty to contribute my feeble aid for the public service, I will venture upon its duties.

I beg you Sir to accept my thanks for the honor, which you are about to confer on me and for the obliging manner in which you have been pleased to communicate it.

I will, with pleasure, accept your polite invitation to dinner on Friday next. With sentiments of much respect and esteem I have the honor to be Sir, Your Obt. Ser.

ROBERT BRENT.

Commission of Appointment as Mayor.

Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting:

Know ye, That reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Integrity, Ability and Diligence of Robert Brent, of the City of Washington, I do in pursuance

of the powers vested in me by the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to incorporate the inhabitants of the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia" hereby appoint him the said Robert Brent, Mayor of the said City of Washington, and do authorize him to exercise and fulfil the duties of that office according to law; and to Have and to Hold the same with all the powers, privileges and authorities thereto, of right appertaining unto him the said Robert Brent for the term of one year from the day of the date hereof, unless the President of the United States for the time being should be pleased sooner to revoke and determine this Commission.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington the first day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two; and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty-seventh.

(SEAL)

TH: JEFFERSON.

By the President:

James Madison, Secretary of State.

Letters to Madison and Jefferson.

Robert Brent, as will be seen from the following letters to Secretary Madison, June 7th, 1806, and to President Jefferson, May 31st, 1808, was "anxious for the President to get some other person to execute the duties of the office."

(To Mr. Madison.)

City of Washington, June 7th, 1806.

Dear Sir:

You will excuse me for reminding you that the



Commission of Mayor ceased on the 1st inst., and that it becomes necessary some appointment should be made, as business occurs daily which cannot be done by any other.

I wished the president could have got some other person to execute the duties of this office; but in consequence of your intimation, that it would be more agreeable to him, that I should continue to act, I am ready again to take upon myself the tasks, and will accept the commission accordingly.

With sentiments of esteem and respect I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,

Your Obt. Ser.

ROBERT BRENT.

(To President Jefferson.)

City of Washington, May 31st, 1808.

Dear Sir:

The Commission with which I have been honored, as Mayor of this city expires this day, it will therefore be proper that a new Commission be made out and forwarded as early as possible.

Presuming that the situation of paymaster, to which Genl. Dearborn has intimated you desire to appoint me, will occupy my whole time, it will be proper that some other person should be commissioned as Mayor of this City and I could wish the new Commission may be so made out. If, however, you should not have made up your mind as to a successor—at this moment—when it is essential the office should not be vacant—you may again fill up the Commission to me, with an understanding that on the first of July some other person be selected to fill that office at which time

I shall resign in his favor. I have the honor to be with sincere respect and esteem, Dear Sir,

Your Mo. Obt. Ser.

ROBERT BRENT.

D Sir:

The foregoing is a copy of a letter which I wrote you, and was about delivering it at the post office when you were in Virginia, but which I was prevented from doing by an intimation from Mr. Munroe that you had directed the letters addressed to you to remain at the post office here on and after that day. I have thought it proper imm-ly on your arrival to repeat my desire that some other other person may be selected as Mayor in my place, believing as I do that the situation to which I am about to be called will require all my attention.

With sentiments of much respect

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your Obt. Ser.

ROBERT BRENT.

Washn, Saty. June 11th, 1808.

#### Offices held by Robert Brent.

Among the many other offices of trust held by him was that of Judge of the Orphan's Court, D. C., Justice of the Peace, member of the School Board and Paymaster General of the Army.

|                                     | Appointed.         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Justice of the Peace of the D. C.   | March 16, 1801.    |
| " " " " "                           | March 14, 1807.    |
| " " " " "                           | Nov. 18, 1812.     |
| " " " " "                           | Sept. 1, 1817.     |
| Judge of the Orphan's Court, D. C., | April 16, 1806. to |
| Feb. 1814.                          |                    |

|                                    |              |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Mayor of Washington, June 1, 1802. |              |  |
| " " 1803.                          |              |  |
| " " 1804.                          |              |  |
| " " 1805.                          | } Jefferson. |  |
| 10 terms. " " 1806.                |              |  |
| " " 1807.                          |              |  |
| " " 1808.                          |              |  |
| " " 1809.                          |              |  |
| " " 1810.                          | } Madison.   |  |
| " " 1811.                          |              |  |

Paymaster General of the Army July 1, 1808 to Aug. 28, 1819.

**Summarized:**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| J. P.              | 1801 to 1817 (?) |
| Mayor,             | 1802 to 1812     |
| Judge Orphan's Ct. | 1806 to 1814.    |
| Pay M. Genl.       | 1808 to 1819.    |

He held all four offices from 1808 to 1812, and was also member of the School Board. June 7th, 1815, he was made first president of the Patriotic Bank, which occupied the site of the present Bank of the Republic. In 1814, he, with Walter Smith and Thomas Swann, were appointed Commissioners for the District of Columbia, to receive subscriptions for the capital stock of the National Bank, to provide funds for the war with Great Britain.

**Some of the Acts of City Councils under Robert Brent.**

The first Act passed by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington and approved by Mayor Robert Brent, July 20th, 1802, was a device of seal for the City of Washington. That the spirit of unity is inseparably associated with the glory of our Coun-

try is well foreshown in that simple proposition, which was adopted that day by the corporation of the City of Washington: "That the seal of the City of Washington shall be the representation of an edifice supported on fifteen columns, having the word 'Washington' at the top; the words 'City seal,' with the figure '1802' at the bottom and the motto 'Union' beneath the dome."

The City Council was very active in the passage of many ordinances for the public good and beautifying the city. They organized a school board, encouraged the establishment of a university for young men, appointed supervisors of markets, organized a police force, made appropriations for opening and repairing streets; for the repair of pumps and wells; established a fire department and purchased several fire engines and protected the city by the passage of various stringent fire ordinances.

Among some of the very many of the Acts passed and receiving the approval of the Mayor in Robert Brent's time, are the following:

An ordinance approved October 6th, 1802, was the establishment of the Centre Market on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, between Seventh and Ninth streets, west. Section 5 of this Act could not be too rigidly enforced to-day. "That no person shall sell or expose for sale in said market any unsound, blown, or unwholesome meat or articles of provision, under the penalty of five dollars for every offence."

An Act approved Nov. 19th, 1802, "That two hundred dollars be and hereby is appropriated for the purpose of opening, clearing and rendering passable for wagons West Fourteenth, From North F street."

An Act approved January 10, 1803, to provide for the prevention and extinction of fire "That every pro-

prietor of any dwelling house or store-house shall provide as many fire buckets of leather, as there are stories to such house."

Sec. 6 of Act approved January 10, 1803, "That there shall be procured by the Mayor one substantial fire engine to be kept near the Centre Market; and so soon thereafter as may be, two additional fire engines shall be procured to be kept near the east and west markets."

"An Act making appropriations for the repair of pumps and wells."

"An Act that every possessor of a lot whereon there shall during the months of June, July, August and September be an artificial excavation, containing stagnant water more than twenty four hours, shall fill up or drain the same, under a penalty of ten dollars, after notice as aforesaid."

April 20, 1807, the city corporation made regulations regarding the sweeping of chimneys, substantially as follows: The Mayor (Robert Brent) was authorized to make a contract with such person as he might deem a proper one, and to give to him the exclusive right to sweep the chimneys in Washington for a term of not to exceed three years. The chimneys were to be swept once in each three months from the 1st day of April to the 1st day of October, and once in each two months the rest of the year, between five and seven o'clock in the morning, or at such time as the chimney sweep and the householder could agree upon. The chimney sweep was entitled to receive from the person so contracting with him the sum of ten cents for each story of each flue or chimney swept; and if any chimney or flue should take fire from the presence of soot in the chimney within two months from the last sweeping, then the chimney sweep should pay a fine of \$5.



ing to one, who is tracing up the Brents. I noticed several tombstones bearing that name there; one in particular, as I now recollect it, tracing the pedigree back to England; the name being spelt "Brant."

This burying-ground is now deserted, and almost unknown, being in a dense wood and underbrush, near the once prosperous and now utterly extinct village of Aquia.

With best wishes and regards,

H. P. GERALD.

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#### EXHIBIT 4. A.

(Major L'Enfant at the Mansion House.)

On the day they began to pull down Mr. Carroll's house, Major L'Enfant dined with me. Mrs. Young hearing he was going to Virginia, requested him, to take a letter for her as far as Aquia. He politely promised he would. She then said, she would send it to him in the morning. She wrote to her Sister Brent; and as I was going to George-Town, I took the letter with me. I met Major L'Enfant, and taking the letter out of my pocket, delivered it to him. This letter covered two others, taken out of the Post Office at George Town. The one, as I afterwards found, from a Stone-cutter of New York. The other to Mr. Robert Brent from France. The letter which Major L'Enfant brought up from Virginia, for me, was a blank cover, enclosing a letter to Mrs. Eliza Brent, who was then in Maryland. I believe this letter was directed to the care of Mr. George Graham, who probably, put it under cover, and directed it to me.

I declare, that to the best of my remembrance I never wrote to Mr. George Brent in my life. That I only have wrote one letter to Mr. Robert Brent since the sale of the Lots and that was entirely upon the subject of Pine Logs, enclosing him the Commissioners' Advertisement for contracting for them; and advising him, if he had any thoughts of contracting for them, to lose no time in coming up. I do further declare, that I never knew till after Major L'Enfant had made the contract with Mr. George Brent for the Quarries, what he was empowered to give.

NOTLEY YOUNG.

Mr. Young's narrative  
abt. the Letters &c.  
inclosed in T. J. 29 feb. 92.

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EXHIBIT 4. B.

(Mr. Brent, Mr. Carroll and Major L'Enfant.)

In a Letter I received from him (Daniel Carroll of Duddington) Yesterday, he sent me the Copies I now inclose from Mr. Brent, Major L'Enfant and Mr. Young—waiving the rudeness of Mr. Walker's and Major L'Enfant's Letters, it is apparent that they both hold the Commrs in sovereign Contempt and that the Major would have them act a very subordinate part or not at all—Major L'Enfant in his Conversation with Mr. Fenwick and Mr. Walker in his Letter refers to the filling up of a Hole as if countenanced by the president when the Major must remember very different Things past at the time—

Thomas Jefferson

to

Thomas Johnson,  
29 Feby. 1792.



(Danl. Carroll's house.)

In riding over Federal Hill with Major L'Enfant on the day that Mr. Danl. Carroll's house were first began to be pulld down. Seeing a ditch that had been dug & filld up I observed to the Major. You have done work & undone it again, turning round, (for he was before me) he said this ought to have convinced Mr. Carroll of my powers—for the President was on the Spot the day this was done—

This is the substance of a conversation between Major L'Enfant—& your Hble Servt.

IGNAS. FENWICK.

inclosed in T. J. of 29 feb. 92.

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EXHIBIT 5. A.

(Quarries at Acquia.)

Memorandum of observations from Mr. George Walker relating to the purchase of Quarries by the Commissioners under an Act for laying out the Federal City from George Brent—

That in a Company in George Town either at the Counting Room of Mr. Davidson or at Mr. Suter's he does not recall which, it was observed by Major L'Enfant or one of the Company, that George Brent was disposed to sell the Quarries for £1500 when Major L'Enfant was in Dumfries treating with Mr. Gibson, & that upon the Major's return to Acquia upon hinting to Mr. Geo. Brent that he supposed he would be now satisfied with £1500 that he replied his price now was £1800 that he had something in his Pocket which justified his asking it.

January 17th 1792

Mr. Brent's

Memorandum.

EXHIBIT 5. B.

(Quarries at Acquia.)

Feb. 3, 92

Major L'Enfant says he will write to you to-morrow answering the question which is proposed in yr. letter to me—In the mean time I have authority to say his answer will be in the Negative—He opposes to the circulating report of what he said at Mr. Davidson's Compting House, at Suter's or at other places, a direct contradiction; but he will fully explain himself in his letter to you. Convinced tho of its being in language tantamount to what I have stated above, I wish you to make up of this letter (if his shou'd not reach you as soon) to resque the Character of our uncle from an imputation so foul in its own nature, & so utterly devoid of Truth—

DANL. BRENT.

To

Mr. Robt. Brent

copy of an extract

Original, autograph or certified copies of all exhibits are in the possession of James Dudley Morgan.

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The PRESIDENT: Mr. Weller has prepared a paper which he will read to you, upon the four mayors who succeeded Mr. Brent, giving a brief outline, and bringing the history that far forward.

## **FOUR MAYORS OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.**

**By Michael I. Weller.**

### **2nd MAYOR**

**DANIEL RAPINE. 1812—1813.**

Our second Mayor, Daniel Rapine, lived at the Southwest corner of New Jersey Ave., & B, Street, S. E., this being the first house South of the U. S. Capitol. He was a printer by profession being the senior member of the publishing firm of Rapine, Conrad & Co. who kept a book store at the same location. He was elected to the office under the Act of Congress of May 4th. 1812 authorizing the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council to elect the Mayor: and he received an annual salary of \$400. The most notable event occurring during his term of office was the declaration of war against Great Britain which aroused the patriotic ardor of the citizens of Washington as is evidenced by the following Act:--

#### **AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION IN AID OF THE DEFENCE OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,**

WHEREAS it is the duty of corporate bodies, as well as individuals whenever their Country is attacked, to render not only their personal services but pecuniary supplies in aid of such defence as the General Government may adopt:

AND WHEREAS the adjoining States are now invaded by the forces of the common enemy:

AND WHEREAS it may happen that a similar attack may be intended against this city, in which event it becomes necessary to be prepared for his reception, THEREFORE

Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the board of aldermen and board of common council of the City of Washington, THAT the sum of five thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated in aid of such measures as the President may adopt for the defence of this city, which sum shall be expended under the superintendence and direction of John Davidson, Peter Lenox, Elias B. Caldwell and Joseph Cassin, esqs. in conjunction with the Mayor of this City, for the time being in procuring such arms or munitions of war, and the defence of the City, as may seem advisable, and for the expenditure of which they shall render an account to the board of alderman and board of common council.

Sec. 2. AND be it further enacted. THAT the Mayor be, and is hereby authorized to borrow the said sum or sums of any Banks in the District of Columbia, and for the repayment of which, the funds of this Corporation are solemnly pledged.

Approved May 20th, 1813.

Another Act of far reaching consequence and a fitting illustration of the views of that period is the following resolution about schools,

RESOLUTION TO RAISE BY LOTTERY THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING TWO PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSES ON THE LANCASTRIAN SYSTEM.

RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the City of Washington. THAT

it is expedient to raise by lottery, the sum of ten thousand dollars (clear of expenses) for the following object to the accomplishment of which the ordinary funds of the City are inadequate, viz,

For building, establishing and endowing two public schools, on the Lancastrian system (one in the Eastern and one in the Western section of the City) the sum of ten thousand dollars.

**RESOLVED.** THAT the Mayor be, and he is hereby requested to present the foregoing resolution to the President of the United States, and respectfully solicit his approbation thereto.

Approved November 19th, 1812.

I approve the object as above stated, for which it is proposed to raise, by lottery, the sum of ten thousand dollars by the corporation of the City of Washington.

JAMES MADISON.

November 23rd, 1812.

An interesting law enacted by the Corporation, was:—

**AN ACT DIRECTING THE TREASURER TO OPEN SEPERATE ACCOUNTS IN THE BANK OF WASHINGTON.**

Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the City of Washington, THAT the treasurer be, and is hereby directed to open four different accounts in the bank of Washington, to wit, one for the first ward, one for the second ward, one for the third ward and one for the fourth ward, and that the collection of taxes on real and personal property for the different wards in future be, and they are

hereby directed to make their deposits to the credit of the treasurer in the bank of Washington, to be passed to his credit in the account for the ward in which the same shall have been collected.

Sec. 2. AND be it enacted, THAT the treasurer be directed to open a general account in the bank of Washington for the deposit of all monies coming into the treasury not specified in the first section of this Act.

Sec. 3. AND be it enacted, THAT no money shall be drawn out of any ward account, except for expenditures in the ward for which the account was opened, unless for it's proportion of any sum or sums required to be paid into the general account.

Approved November 18th, 1812.

On December the 21st, 1812, the Corporation ordered that a public market house should be established, to be called the Capitol Hill Market, which was located in the center of East Capitol Street, between 1st & 2nd streets East; rather a curious fact in connection with this market house, which was a two story building, not generally known, is that the U. S. Supreme and Circuit Courts used the upper story for court purposes after the destruction of the Capitol by the British forces, August 24th, 1814. Taxes were not high in those days, the rate being only \$0.50 on every \$100. value of real and personal property, while the owners of slaves were assessed \$1.50 for males and \$1.00 for females annually—payable only when the slaves were between the ages of fifteen and forty-five years.

The entire population of Washington, white and colored, was less than ten thousand, occupying about 1,500. houses.

Rapine had been in the 2nd, 3rd & 7th Council, to-

gether with the celebrated Architect James Hoban and other historic characters, such as Peter Hagner, John P. Van Ness, Daniel Carroll, Nicholas King et al.

Rapine had also served as Mayor a part of Mayor Brent's last term from June, 1811 to June, 1812, having been appointed by President Madison, to serve out the balance of Brent's term, when he, Brent, peremptorily declined to act any longer as Mayor.

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### 3rd. MAYOR.

DR. JAMES H. BLAKE. 1813--1817.

The third Mayor, Dr. James H. Blake whose home was on the west side of 13th street, West, between E and F streets, was a physician of repute, universally esteemed, who entered upon the duties of his office when the City was seriously menaced by the enemy who finally after the disastrous battle of Bladensburg entered the City on the night of August 24th, 1814 and after perpetrating many acts of vandalism retired precipitately on the night of the 25th. It may not be out of place to allude here to the following appreciation of heroism.

AN ACT APPROPRIATING A SUM OF MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SWORD; TO BE PRESENTED TO COMMODORE BARNEY.

BE it enacted by the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Common Council of the City of Washington, THAT for the purpose of defraying the cost of a sword, which the City Council has voted to Commodore Bar-

ney, as a testimony of their respect for the gallantry and intrepidity displayed by himself, and the officers and men under his command, in the defence of the City on the 24th. day of August last, there shall be and is hereby appropriated, out of any monies in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars to be expended under the direction of the Mayor of this City.

Approved October 18th, 1814.

August the 14th, 1814, President Madison issued a proclamation to Congress to convene in extra session, which assembled September the 19th, in chambers fitted out in the General Post Office building on 7th street N. W. (also known as Blodgett's Hotel), on account of the destruction of the U. S. Capitol building. It was during this session that the remarkable discussion occurred over the proposition to remove the National Capital from Washington the motion at one time prevailed, until finally by the influential exertions of the Virginia and Maryland representatives and by a very narrow margin it was at last decided to rebuild the public buildings which had been partially destroyed by the enemy and President Madison was authorized to borrow \$500,000 for these purposes from any bank or banks in the District of Columbia. It is certainly gratifying to know that the full amount needed by the U. S. Government was immediately tendered as a loan by the City banks.

An incident of the capture of Washington, was the venom displayed by the invaders towards the property of two future Mayors, Joseph Gales, Jr., and William W. Seaton, the editors and owners of the "National Intelligencer". Admiral Cockburn singled out the contents of their building to be burned in revenge for



their persistent advocacy of the continuation of the war.

This significant card appeared in the "National Intelligencer" of September the 1st. "Those citizens who politely endeavored to save any portion of our books from the flames to which the enemy consigned them or any of the printing materials &c. &c., are respectfully requested to deliver them to our foreman Andrew Tate and accept our thanks for their politeness." August 31st. Gales & Seaton.

This number of the paper also mentions "that on Thursday evening last while our devoted city was in possession of the Enemy, it was visited by a tremendous hurricane, which did great damage to the houses, blowing off the roofs of many, destroying chimnies, fences etc. In some parts of the City every house was more or less injured".

In the issue of August the 22nd, is the following strange notice:—

Marshal's Office (D. C.)

Washington, Aug. 22nd, 1814.

By order of the proper authority, it is required that all alien enemies, within the District of Columbia, report themselves weekly until further notice. This regulation can not be dispensed with. Those who reside in Washington County will report themselves at the Marshal's Office in Washington every Wednesday. Those who reside in Alexandria County will report themselves at the Marshal's Office in the Town of Alexandria every Wednesday.

WASHINGTON BOYD,

Marshal, Dist. Col.

At this time more than one third of the population was foreign born. Some of the most prominent resi

dents were British subjects, yet to their honor be it said, they were invariably found in the ranks of the defenders of the National Capital. That Mayor Blake was not remiss in his duties can be gleaned from an appeal by him to his fellow citizens to enroll themselves in the different wards in independent companies, every man able to carry a musket, "because the Militia has gone to meet the enemy": he concludes the call by stating "that the well known patriotism of the Citizens of Washington, is a sure guarantee that they will cheerfully comply with so reasonable a request at a time of peril like the present. Affection for our Wives, Children and Homes,—Patriotism and interest, all demand our services in the best way we can render them."

Congress being temporarily without a home, Daniel Carroll of Duddington and Thomas Law with a few associates erected a building for their use at the Southwest corner of 1st and A streets, North-east, which was afterwards known as the Brick Capitol; this structure was completed in four months time so that on December the 8th, 1815, the first session of the Fourteenth Congress met there. It was in front of this building, then called Congress Hall, that President James Monroe was inaugurated March 5th, 1817. At the present time it is converted into private residences, in one of which Associate Justice Stephen J. Field, of the U. S. Supreme Court resides.

Mayor Blake was accused of cowardice in leaving the City when the British entered, but he replied so vigorously, in his controversy with Dr. Wm. Thornton that the charges were abandoned. Rather an interesting item appears in the "Intelligencer" under date of September 9th. "The Public Buildings having been mostly destroyed the various offices are locating them-

selves in those private houses which are most commodious and conveniently situated for the purpose. The President will occupy Col. Tayloe's large house, which was lately occupied by the French Minister; the Department of State occupies the house lately occupied by Judge Duvall; the Treasury Department is fixed at the house formerly occupied by the British Minister Foster; the War office is in the building adjoining the Bank of the Metropolis; the Navy Office in Mr. Mechlin's house near the West Market and the General Post Office in one of Mr. Way's new houses" etc. etc.

Dr. Wm. Thornton, previously mentioned, is entitled to the credit of saving much valuable public and private property; he speaks in commendation of the actions of Dr. James Ewell and Major L'Enfant during this exciting period. Somewhat comforting midst all this warlike turmoil is it to find that "The subscriber will accommodate a small family with furnished lodgings or board; or can accommodate FOUR members of Congress with comfortable board on reasonable terms.

THADY HOGAN.

North F St, near St. Patrick's church."

Under date of September 26th, is published "The Star Spangled Banner," for the first time in Washington, it is credited to a Baltimore paper, a foot note says, "Whoever is the author of these lines, they do equal honor to his principles and his talents." Nat. Int. cl.

It was not known at this time that Francis Scott Key, then a resident of Georgetown, was the author.

An appeal for funds was made by Gales and Seaton in the following style

"Bank notes of every description, counterfeits excepted, will be thankfully received by the editors of the

National Intelligencer in payment of arrears and advance from their subscribers and Patrons, without discount or deduction”.

Apparently even in those days, journalists had to contend with delinquent subscribers.

Dr. Blake while a native of Calvert County, Maryland, practiced his profession for a number of years in Virginia, coming to Washington in 1807, where he received distinguished attention on account of his professional ability, taking an active part in all public affairs. He was filling the office of register of wills, at the time of his death, July 29th, 1819.

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#### 4th MAYOR.

BENJAMIN G. ORR. 1817—1819.

Mr. Orr resided at the N. W. corner of 8th St. and Market Space, N. W., occupied now by Mr. Hoeke's furniture establishment: during his mayoralty he was very active in procuring public improvements, grading streets and securing the passage of laws for the better maintenance of order etc. He received the authority of the Common Council to borrow the money from the local banks and to pledge the taxes of the City for the faithful payment of the debt: he was also directed to issue ten thousand Corporation due bills of \$1.00 each to be applied to similar uses. Apparently the citizens had a bad dog scare during the year 1819, for on August the 14th, an Act was passed forbidding any dogs running at large in the City, between the 1st of May and the 1st day of November, it was ordered that “it shall be the duty of the constable in their respective

wards to kill and bury all such dogs," and provided further, that "it shall also be lawful for any OTHER PERSON WHATSOEVER, to kill any dog going at large within the period aforesaid."

The Mayor seemed also to think that the morals of the inhabitants required the closing of the public markets on Sundays, so he persuaded the Corporation to repeal all laws permitting such opening and substituting Saturdays as the proper time for housekeepers to lay in supplies. It was also during his term that any and every person was clothed with the power to kill and destroy every animal of the goat kind that should be found running at large. The City was becoming more cultivated too, \$1,000. was appropriated for the purchase of four large fire bells to be placed on the top of the several ward market houses; fire companies were organized; apparatus purchased and other necessities indulged in: the money was partially raised by the means of lotteries; firebugs were not unknown, for on the 13th of April, 1819, the Mayor was instructed to offer a reward of \$500. for the apprehension of the incendiaries. The following resolutions are interesting:—

#### RESOLUTIONS FIXING NAMES TO CERTAIN AVENUES.

RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the City of Washington, THAT the following avenues in the City of Washington shall, hereafter be designated by the names hereinafter respectively affixed thereto, to wit:

The avenue as laid out on the ground plan of the City running in a north eastern direction from the open space formed by the intersection of East Capitol

street with Massachusetts, North Carolina and Kentucky Avenue, to the boundary of the City, TENNESSEE AVENUE.

The avenue, as laid out on the ground plan of the City running in a south western direction from Judiciary Square to Canal street, LOUISIANA AVENUE.

The Avenue, as laid out on the ground plan of the City, running in a south eastern direction from Fifteenth street west to Canal street, OHIO AVENUE.

The Avenue as laid out on the ground plan of the City running in a south eastern direction from Judiciary Square, INDIANA AVENUE.

RESOLVED, That the Mayor be requested to present the aforesaid resolutions to the President of the United States and respectfully solicit his approbation.

Approved November 4th, 1818.

JAMES MONROE.

RESOLUTION TO RAISE BY LOTTERY THE SUM OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, FOR THE PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Common Council of the City of Washington. THAT it is expedient, to raise, by lottery, the sum of ten thousand dollars (clear of expenses) in addition to the sums heretofore authorized, for the following objects, to wit: for building, establishing and endowing public schools, for building a penitentiary and for building a town house or city hall in the City of Washington.

RESOLVED that the Mayor present the foregoing resolution to the President of the United States and respectfully solicit his approbation.

Approved November 4th, 1818.

JAMES MONROE.

It was during Orr's term that an important change was made in the building regulations that Washington had originally approved Oct. 17th, 1791; these had provided that "all houses erected in the City must have brick or stone walls, that none should be higher than forty feet nor lower than thirty five feet on any Avenue, no frame houses were to be constructed within the City excepting temporary conveniences for lodging workmen or to secure building materials and these were to be removed at once when so ordered by the Commissioners"; but it appears from the records that Presidents Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison had at various times suspended the enforcement of this law, until January 14th, 1818, President Monroe issued a proclamation in which he stated that experience had taught that these arbitrary provisions seriously impeded the improvement of the City and ordered their abrogation until January 1st, 1820, excepting however that no wooden house should cover more than 320 square feet nor be higher than twelve feet from sill to eaves nor should they be within 24 feet of a brick or stone building. Again in 1822, President Monroe modified these laws to some extent, probably finding their severity retarded too much the growth of the City.

Samuel Lane, Commissioner of Public Buildings, having been charged with paying extravagant prices for labor and materials used upon the public buildings, in a report submitted to Congress, January 25th, 1820, furnishes an interesting table of such cost, which proves that the invasion of Washington gave an impetus to building and to the working classes that was attended by beneficial results, and it is added here for information, to wit:

**A TABLE SHOWING THE PRICE OF MATERIALS AND LABOR AT SEVERAL DIFFERENT PERIODS: AS GIVEN AT THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN WASHINGTON CITY.**

|                                  | From 1793 to 1800                | 1800-1812                        | 1815-1820        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Stonecutter's wages per day..... | \$1.25 to \$1.33                 | \$1.50 to \$1.75                 | \$2.50 to \$2.75 |
| Bricklayer's wages per day.....  | 1.50 to 1.75                     | 1.50 to 1.75                     | 2.00 to 2.25     |
| Carpenter's wages per day.....   | 1.00 to 1.50                     | 1.00 to 1.50                     | 1.62 to 1.88     |
| Laborer's wages per day.....     | .75                              | .75                              | 1.00             |
| Free stone per ton.....          | 7.00 to 8.00                     | 8.00 to 9.00                     | 10.00 to 12.00   |
| Brick per thousand.....          | 7.00                             | 7.00 to 7.50                     | 9.00 to 9.12     |
| Plank flooring per 100 feet..... | 4.66 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> | 4.66 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> | 7.50             |
| Plank, inch clear, 100 feet..... | 1.50 to 2.00                     | 1.50 to 2.00                     | 4.00             |
| Plank, inch rough, 100 feet..... | 1.00                             | 1.25 to 1.50                     | 2.00             |

Washington, January 25th. 1820,

SAMUEL LANE,  
Com. Pub. Bldgs.

5th MAYOR.

SAMUEL N. SMALLWOOD. 1819—1822.

Our fifth Mayor, who was the leading dealer in lumber and building supplies, lived at the corner of 2nd & N streets, Southeast, in the neighborhood of Smallwood's Wharf located at the foot of 2nd street, Southeast on the "Eastern Branch," one of the main wharves of the City. In 1820 the City had a population of 13,474 persons, of these 3,636 were colored, being about one-half slaves and the other half free colored; or about 1-3 colored, a ratio maintained to the present day; there were 2,141 buildings in Washington. The neighboring City of Alexandria contained 9,844 inhabitants and Georgetown had 7,519, so that their combined popula-



tion exceeded that of the Capital. It was under Smallwood that the plans were adopted for a City Hall as prepared by the English architect, George Hadfield, (who had served in 1803 in the 2nd Council) and the selection was made of Judiciary Square, the present site, for the purpose, instead of reservation 17 (now Garfield Park), which was specified in the original plan of the City of Washington. The structure was commenced, with imposing Masonic ceremonies:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO  
TAKE POSSESSION OF JUDICIARY SQUARE  
FOR THE ERECTION OF A CITY HALL.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen and board of Common Council of the City of Washington, **THAT** the mayor be, and is hereby authorized, to take possession, with the consent of the President, of the United States, of such part of the Judiciary Square, south of E street North, for the purpose of erecting thereon a City Hall, and occupying the same for public purposes.

**RESOLVED**, That the foregoing resolution be submitted to the President of the United States for his approbation

Approved April 4, 1820.

June 8th. 1820.

I approve the resolution of the Board of Aldermen and board of common council of the city of Washington of April 4th, 1820, so far as to authorize the Mayor to take possession of so much of Judiciary Square as will be necessary for the erection thereon of a City Hall. Not knowing the amount of ground, included within the bounds described, I will at an

early period cause to be marked out, by precise line, so much as shall be fully adequate, on a liberal scale, to all public purposes contemplated by the resolution, which may be authorized by law,

JAMES MONROE.

After Smallwood had served one term the city charter was amended by Congress, May 15, 1820, providing that the Mayor should be elected by the same persons who were qualified to vote for the members of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council, he was, therefore, elected to the position he was then occupying, for a term of two years.

April 5th, 1821, the Corporation enacted laws governing the institution for the accommodation of the destitute poor, giving it the official name of the "Washington Asylum"; this was located on M street, between 6th and 7th streets, N. W.

Liberal appropriations by the City were constantly being made for the improvement of streets etc. An Act was also passed to pay to Francis Scott Key the sum of \$60. for his services as counsel and attorney for the Corporation. The Mayor was also "authorized and directed to lease to Messrs. Warren and Wood, or to trustees to be appointed by the stockholders to a new theatre or to any other person or persons, so much ground as shall be granted by the President of the United States as a site for a theatre, for a term not exceeding twenty years, at an annual rent of ten dollars, conditioned that if said theatre shall cease to be used for dramatic exhibitions for a term of two years, such lease shall be void and of no effect and the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed in such event to take possession of said theatre and hold it subject to the future disposition of the said Corporation." Section 2

allows an extension of the lease for a further term of 20 years, at a rent to be not less than 5 per cent. of the net clear profits, which may be derived from the use of said theatre etc.

While labor and materials were not expensive in these primitive days, yet the cost of laying sidewalks in front of buildings by the Corporation exposed the owners to a tax of not less than \$2.50 to \$3.00 per front foot, more than double the amount charged at the present time; still the paternal solicitude of the City fathers for the welfare of the community was manifested in many ways, apparently they were never contented unless they were engaged in framing laws for the amelioration of their constituents; what with enacting stronger scavenger laws, or measures regulating slaves or free persons of color, or adjusting salaries, it can readily be seen that they were kept busy. When receipts from taxes were insufficient to defray expenses, the money was borrowed from the Banks, or corporation due bills in denomination of \$0.50 or \$1.00 were issued, or when larger sums were needed, then lotteries were started to tide the affairs over until money became more plentiful; the sale of lottery tickets furnished the means not only to erect the City Hall but also other public buildings. Churches, even, did not disclaim to avail themselves of the means of lotteries to raise funds, in fact it can readily be claimed that during a period of over fifty years lotteries were not only tolerated but they were always popular.

Mayor Smallwood's 6th term expired June, 1822, he was succeeded by Mayor Thomas Carberry who served until June, 1824, when the very popular Smallwood was again called to the Mayoralty but unfortunately was removed by the hand of death on September 30th, 1824, his last public Act being the following:

**“RESOLVED** by the board of Aldermen and board of Common Council of the City of Washington, **THAT** the Mayor, the President of the board of Aldermen, the President of the board of Common Council, two members of each board of the Council, major general Brown, commodore Tingey, Daniel Carroll of Duddington and Richard Bland Lee, esquires, be, and they are hereby requested to act as a committee in behalf of the citizens of Washington to make suitable arrangements to receive and entertain General Lafayette, in the Metropolis of the Nation, of which he is the guest, and to make every arrangement to pay him that high respect to which his eminent services to the Republic so justly entitle him.

**RESOLVED** that the said committee be requested to confer with the President of the United States upon the subject of the manner of receiving General Lafayette, and to adapt their arrangements so as to harmonize with those of the national authorities.

**RESOLVED**, that if in the opinion of the Mayor and the Presidents of the two boards, it shall be considered expedient for the two boards to be convened to make further provisions for carrying into effect the arrangements that may be adopted by the committee, then the Mayor shall convene the two boards in session for that purpose.

Approved August 24th, 1824.

SAMUEL N. SMALLWOOD,

Mayor.

Smallwood first entered public life in 1804 when he was elected to the 3rd Council as Alderman, having Rapine as his colleague, he occupied a similar position in 1806 and was elected President of the board in 1809, serving again in 1810 & 1811; he was the only one of our twenty mayors who died while in office.

There were at this period eleven churches of all denominations in the City: the Masonic hall was on the West side of 11th street, immediately South of Pa. Ave., occupied now by the new Post Office, opposite the theatre, also called Carusi's saloon; the Orphan Asylum on 7th street, East side, between H & I streets; the General Post Office & Patent Office occupied the building on E street, between 7th & 8th streets, on which the P. O. department is now located. South Washington was an island separated from the balance of the city by water courses and canals. Members of Congress, Representatives and Senators received \$8.00 per diem for their services when in attendance. A tariff reduction averaging about ten per cent was allowed on all goods imported in American vessels as an incentive for the expansion of our commercial marines, (worthy of imitation now-a-days) while the District of Columbia had considerable direct commercial traffic with foreign countries, having two ports of entry, Georgetown and Alexandria, through which foreign goods were received in large quantities.

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The PRESIDENT: Before adjournment, I desire to ask the Society whether there is any resolution or business in order. If not, I desire in their name to express to the gentlemen who have addressed us the hearty thanks of the Society. Several of the addresses, as you have noticed, show very thorough research into the records of the City, and historical investigation of great value. We congratulate the gentlemen upon the success of their efforts; and especially, may I say, in respect of one of our mayors, Peter Force, a more beautiful tribute, evidently dictated from per-

sonal regard and esteem, has never been rendered to a citizen than that rendered to Peter Force's memory by Mr. Spofford to-night. (Applause.)

With this acknowledgment to all the speakers for the labor and the interest they have afforded the Society and the audience, I await a motion to adjourn, if there is no other business pending.

Upon motion, the Society adjourned, sine die.

**OBSERVATIONS**  
**ON THE**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL.**

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By Tallmadge A. Lambert.

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[Read before the Society January 4, 1897.]

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The evolution of the modern state may be measurably traced in the development of its Capital City. The foundations of London and Paris, it is true, were laid with little reference to the subsequent representative characters of those two cities and at times when neither the autonomy, nor the national glory of Great Britain, or of France was even remotely anticipated. From the period, however, when England, under the vigorous rule of the Plantagenets and France under the politic sway of Louis the Eleventh, became in effect, as well as in name, a thoroughly centralized government, London, as well as Paris, expanded in the direct ratio of national growth and reflected faithfully the genius of national development. If this be true of the metropolis accidentally planted on the banks of the Thames and of the city casually set in the center of the Seine, the observation is no less just in respect of such younger capitals as Vienna, Berlin and Moscow.

Will a greater truth does the observation apply to our own Washington. Here, beside the tawny Potomac

mac, the seed was sown, scarcely more than a century ago, which was preordained by the sower to germinate the municipal plant which should grow with the growth and develop with the energies of the Nation.

The hardy colonists emerged from their Revolutionary struggle individually free and personally independent. The reaction from political thralldom and personal dependence had well nigh precipitated the opposite evil of administrative paralysis and the undue assertion of the rights of the individual man. History and the mistakes of history were equally before them and they were singularly well fitted by native discernment and scholastic attainment to be instructed by the one and warned by the other. That they should have perpetuated, for a time, the errors of the Archaian League and the Helvetic Cantons ought not to be for us so much matter of surprise as that, in swift recognition of their mistake, they should have dissolved the nerveless bond of a confederacy and, having struck out for themselves in the science of politico-philosophy, the essentially new and original idea of nationality, they should have boldly converted themselves into a nation of constituent States.

When the Constitutional Convention of 1787 met it was at an awful crisis in the affairs of mankind. Its members had been tried by the triple fires of war, of political revolution and of philosophical disputation. The area was marked by social convulsion, governmental disruption and theoretical speculations upon the institutions, the capabilities and the temporal destinies of mankind. To the highly bred and highly endowed members of this remarkable convention—some of whom held masters' degrees from the most noted of the English Universities—all that could be gleaned from the story of past dynasties was clearly revealed.



To the practical economics of Aristotle they added a profound knowledge of the institutional histories of Greece and Rome and of the modern states which owe their origin to the dissolution of the Roman Empire. Above all they had familiarized themselves with the valuable method of political comparison and of politico-philosophical disquisition which had been adopted by Montesquieu to sway, to direct and to captivate the minds of his cotemporaries. The deliberations of men so experienced, so endowed and, mentally, so well equipped could not have failed to be productive of adequate result. The event, however, was such as must have exceeded all cotemporaneous expectation. With the simple formula "We, the people," was projected the planetary system of States and Governments a creation absolutely new, curiously unique and—most serious consideration of all—wholly untried. It was no less than the astounding adaptation of the theory of nationality to an indeterminate number of municipal bodies each moving within its own political orbit independent of but, nevertheless, in strict co-ordination with the other. It is as though the authors, in their quest of a comprehensive system of government which should supply the deficiencies in the discarded leagues, alliances and confederacies of the past, had imitated the brilliant achievement of their fellow countryman, Franklin, and, exploring the circumambient ether, had traduced from the planetary system its primordial law for the practical use and government of men who were not more desirous to be free than to conserve their freedom by the self-imposed restraints of Order. For the development of this virgin idea there was, luckily, at hand a virgin soil. No clearance of weed-like prejudices and gnarled and misshapen customs was needed for its planting and untrammelled growth. How it ger-

minated and how beneficently it has developed the free, the contented and the prosperous condition of 70,000,000 of the human race to-day attests.

This nation of component states and constituent citizens, unlike the governments previously known to historiographers, had, as we have seen an *a priori* existence. Its scheme was established in advance or, at the most, at the very instant of its creation. Instead of arising fitfully and perilously upon the strata formed by successive civic convulsions—instead of projecting, as by alluvial accretion, a scheme of organic existence by the slow accumulation of customs and traditions, it started into being accurately defined and carefully limited by the injunctions and the sanctions of a carefully devised written constitution. Its advent was like that of the fabled Minerva—fully armed, with lance in rest and defensively provided with corselet, helm and targe.

To me, reflecting upon the events of this stupendous æra it has ever seemed that the moral and intellectual revolution which terminated with the overthrow of the Federation and eventuated in the birth of this marvellous idea of composite nationality was the most remarkable and salutary in the entire history of the human race. The fame of it far transcends the reputation, great as it is, which the actors in that revolution had just achieved in the recently concluded struggle for political independence. Both were timely for both, as I have already observed, occurred at a supreme—an awful—crisis in the affairs of men. The one secured possession of that freedom which the other is designed to preserve. In the proportion that it is even more commendable to save than to acquire is the relative practical value to its possessors of the fruits of the two revolutions.

Having worked out this idea of nationality and

given it permanent shape and expression in the Federal Constitution, it became the immediate concern of those who had framed that instrument to provide for the abstract entity—the creation of their philosophical speculation—a fixed and independent abiding place. It is the commonly received opinion that the reservation of a special and exclusive site for the nation's capital was inspired by the apprehension of possible interference with the freedom of legislation in situations not wholly subjected to the control of the general government. The occurrence of the military emeute at Philadelphia while the Congress was there assembled is usually referred to as conclusive of the correctness of this theory. I think, however, that the isolation of the Capital City of the country was the result of a profounder and more philosophical consideration. I prefer to regard it as the logical consequence of the national idea of government. While the newly emancipated colonies yet constituted a league their several representatives were essentially ambassadors and when they met it was to consult upon a limited range of subjects relating, almost exclusively, to matters of common defense. For this purpose it little mattered where they might meet or that they should establish by common consent a permanent place of meeting within the limits of any determinate state. There was no ground common to the confederacy which could serve the purpose of a permanent meeting place and if there had been such common ground the essential motive for devoting it to this purpose was, of necessity, wanting. With the adoption of the Constitution that motive was distinctly supplied by the scheme of national unity which the Constitution exhibits. A nation was thereby formed and with it, as a necessary corollary, a national abiding place was projected. The

one is as little conceivable apart from the other as would be the living torso from the governing head. What the sages—I had almost said the magicians—of the Constitutional Convention succeeded in doing was to frame a gigantic and unprecedented Corporation—a juristic being of colossal proportions whose constituent elements were, primarily, persons in their normal and natural relations and, secondarily, persons in their abnormal and corporate relations. It is in the former or primary sense that the expression “We, the people of the United States” is used in the great constituent act of the new government. Unity had been sought for by the Articles of Confederation—Union was accomplished under the Constitution. The latter is a charter resting upon solemn covenant—the former had been a pact resting upon consent—a mere rope of sand. Out of the projected union had been evolved the paramount idea of Nationality. The states were to be no longer bound together by a friable league. They were to become the component parts of a national system whose primary constituents would be the individual citizens of the several States. From the coordination of the States was to be evolved a government whereof each state would be an element and which would, by its very essence, be inclusive of all the State or, as the idea is sometimes sought to be expressed, the States were to become *imperii in imperio*.

If I have been clear in stating my view of the origin of our government it becomes easy to understand why its founders should have sought, simultaneously with its organization, to establish a suitable place for its administration. It is equally comprehensible why the site to be selected should have been subjected to its exclusive jurisdiction. If it is deemed expedient to establish for a corporation, whether private, public or

quasi-public, an office for the unfettered transaction of its affairs how much more must this necessity have impressed itself upon the minds of our Constitution framers in respect of the transcendent corporation which they were engaged in creating?

The result, as we know, was the selection by Washington and the acceptance by Congress of the area of ten miles square which formed the original limits of the Federal District. A more unpromising site could scarcely have been proposed to the fashionable and exclusive sets of such centers of luxury and refinement as the cities of Philadelphia, New York, Albany and Boston are represented to have been at that time. To make it incumbent upon the representatives of such cultured constituencies to abandon, for even a time, their highly civilized surroundings, for the Council House located in a comparative wilderness was, in effect, to require them to repeat some of the self-sacrificing experiences of their hardy ancestors when, as pioneers, they deserted the soft delights of European society to plant the seeds of civilization in the virgin soil of the new world. Animated, it may be, by much the same spirit of heroism and self-abnegation these, their worthy descendants, failed not, at the call of duty, to sacrifice personal comfort for the public weal. They came, they saw, they conquered— as well their individual prejudices as the natural obstacles by which they were surrounded. West of Rock Creek, the patented Rock of Dumbarton exhibited a social foundation already fifty years old and a culture not second in some respects to that which formed the boast of the cities I have named and Alexandria was a chief emporium of the South. Looking, however, eastward of the Creek the Federal City, about which speculation was naturally rife, existed, practically, in the imagina-

tions of men save, so far, as their imaginations may have been stimulated by the only tangible evidence of existence afforded by the magnificent, I had almost said, the magniloquent, plan of the prescient L'Enfant. The pioneer, however, was speedily at work. Before the nervous tension of his stalwart arm the forest rapidly disappeared—marsh was transformed to *terra firma* and, with the erection of the Capitol, the Executive Mansion, Post Office and other buildings appeared at first in rows, as if for mutual encouragement and, then, singly, here and there, along the rudely defined streets and avenues, the dwellings of those who, inspired by the courage of their republican convictions, ventured to establish, amid such unfamiliar and unpromising surroundings, their *Lares* and *Penates*. All honor to these adventurous founders of our Nation's Capital. For them existed no hope of civic honor and official recognition. They were not even at liberty to style themselves citizens of the territory whose waste they had redeemed. They were residents, merely, or, more properly, comorants. The single reservation made in their favor by the acts of cession of right in the soil which they severally possessed distinguished them from squatters or actual trespassers. With no expectation of political preferment they were content to relinquish the cherished right of suffrage and to link their fortunes with the nascent destinies of the infant capital of a no less infant republic. It is not easy to withhold our admiration for the confidence which inspired those early dwellers within our gates—equally in the stability of the new government and in the success of its projected capital. For many decades this confidence was subjectively sustained. The work of capital-building, unlike the vigorous work of nation-building, absolutely languished. Notwithstanding

the liberal donations in land which had been made by the Nineteen proprietors of the city's territory; notwithstanding the gratuity by Maryland of \$72,000 and by Virginia of \$120,000 munificent offerings both, when we reflect that they proceeded from the exchequers of war-ridden and impoverished communities, the work of improvement went forward with painful slowness. Making all due allowance for the exigencies—the *res augustae domi*—of the federal government in the first quarter of the century, the extreme parsimony exhibited by successive Congresses in dealing with the territory committed to their exclusive charge by the Constitution has never seemed to me to be capable of justification. Hence, I repeat the confidence of the earlier inhabitants in the future stability of the capital was for decades, aye for a generation or more, subjectively nourished. It certainly derived support from no extraneous sources.

I have adverted to the liberality of the nineteen original proprietors in dealing with the Commissioners for laying out the Federal city. It is not claiming too much to assert that history shows few parallels to the disinterestedness of these liberty-loving farmers—these simple minded gentry of the soil.

It has been the fashion to disparage their motives and to hold that they were not free from a speculative regard for the effect which the location of the nation's capital might exert upon the residue of their landed possessions. It should be remembered, however, that their holdings bounded upon a navigable stream whose availability for commerce had already assured the prosperity of the neighboring city of Alexandria and was rapidly developing the contiguous municipality of Georgetown. The lands of these proprietors were yet more advantageously located than either of the towns

I have mentioned, since they were bounded on two sides by the Potomac and its navigable Eastern Branch. There was every reason, therefore, to anticipate the ultimate rise, at this point, of a city which, possessing a more extensive navigable front than either Alexandria or Georgetown, would speedily overreach both in the race of commercial prosperity. Besides, the suggestion is not to be tolerated that the selection of the site for the federal city was determinable by the cupidity of the government, on the one hand, or the speculative schemes of individuals on the other. Perish the very thought that such ignoble aims could have influenced the one or such venal considerations have animated the other! I prefer to believe—and I think I am sustained in the belief by contemporaneous records—that the liberal donation of 3,606 acres of private land for streets and of 982 acres, in 10,136 building lots to the general government, proceeded upon motives as disinterested as they were patriotic and liberal. If this was, unhappily, not the case certainly the anticipation of any great appreciation of their retained holdings by reason of the location of the federal city were very inadequately realized in the lives of the original proprietors and they must have found occasion, more than once, to rue the day when they sacrificed arable and productive acres for imperfectly projected and illy paved streets and lots that served no other purpose than to pasture the domestic cows and goats of a new and struggling population.

However this may have been the city, ill favored as yet, grew as the nation developed and waxed, eventually, sturdy and strong. It was not, we must confess, a picturesque growth. The older sections exhibit, at this day, the deplorable absence of architectural adornment from the dwellings of that primitive time.



The sanitary condition, too, of the low-lying area was something hardly conceivable by those of a later generation acquainted only with the hygienic attributes of the modern sewer and the beneficent results of marsial reclamation. It is within the writer's memory that almost the entire limits of what was known in earlier municipal phraseology as the First Ward—a section which has always been devoted to fashion and diplomacy—the malarial influence of neighboring and exposed alluvial deposit was exhibited in the continual recurrence of fever and ague. I know whereof I speak for about the close of my first decade I was an inmate of my grandmother's household on I between 18th and 19th streets and the remembrance of my truly bitter experiences with daily doses of quinine to avert or to mitigate the quotidian or tertian alternations of shivering cold and throbbing heat is yet vividly retained. The fact, too, that I was only one of a multitude of sufferers from the same annual endemic never suggested itself for a moment as a solace to my childish sensibilities. It was pure, unadulterated and unmitigated suffering—made all the more intolerable by the now exploded theory which denied to the parched lips of the fever stricken patient the eagerly longed-for draught of cool and limpid water. Happily for the present generation the development of science and a more liberal policy on the part of the government has removed the evil to which I refer. The fetid and stagnant stream which formerly bisected the city and converted one of its halves into a veritable island has been covered and converted to its legitimate use as a *cloaca maxima*. In other directions sewers radiate from similar trunks in conformity with a system that is yet approaching perfection. The malaria breeding shallows of the Potomac are being fast reclaimed to *terra firma* and it is not

to be doubted that the swamps which fringe and disfigure the Eastern Branch of that river will shortly disappear in response to the intelligent demands of science. All this has been the result of thirty years of progress. If we add five years to that period in retrospect what a vastly different spectacle presents itself to the mental vision from that which greets us outwardly at present!

Then grim-visaged war reared his horrid front within the land. The growth of national prosperity had in some respects transcended the development of the capital city. Visitors from neighboring cities did not attempt to conceal the disappointment and disgust with which they contrasted the superior attractions of their own municipalities with the sordid attributes of the nation's capital. The really superior private residences might have been readily counted. The section bounded by K, Fourteenth, the Boundary and by Rock Creek which is now occupied by palatial improvements was then but sparsely inhabited and in great part uninhabitable by reason of its marshy character. The more pretentious dwellings were to be found about Lafayette Square and for a limited distance along the streets from F to W west of Sixteenth street. F street from Seventh to Fifteenth afforded no suggestion of its present availability for business purposes and, if I remember correctly, was not even paved or, if paved at all, paved only with cobblestones such as made Pennsylvania Avenue, throughout its entire length, a veritable bed of torture. North of F street I do not recall a single carriage-way that was even macadamized. On more than one occasion I remember to have seen long trains of army wagons stalled in the mud of H street and of Rhode Island Avenue.

At that time I was an undergraduate of the George-

town University. The dread alarm had broken, with startling effect, upon the peaceful quietude of our academic surroundings. What is worse, the exigencies of the situation made it necessary to quarter upon us, for a time, the Sixty-ninth regiment of N. Y. National Guard. This regiment was composed, exclusively, of genuine sons of Erin—ever ready to fight for the liberties of others though powerless to unite in defense of their own. The men had been hastily mustered into service and upon their arrival at the College were undisciplined and somewhat impatient of restraint. They were on the borders of the enemy's country, too, and their fervid imaginations inclined them to see an armed foe in every object which they viewed in the uncertain light of the gloaming or under the darker shadows of night. The result of the nervous tension was speedily exhibited. Night after night and sometimes, at intervals during the same night, the inmates of the College would be aroused by the sharp and successive calls of the sentries in response to the alarm of an outlying picket, followed immediately by the roll of the drum, the rapid formation of the men under arms and their swift clattering departure for the scene of the supposed attack. The result was uniformly the same. Instead of Jeb Stuart and the Black Horse cavalry of a predatory band of Valley guerillas, some peacefully grazing cow or uneasily dreaming hog would be disclosed by the prodding bayonets of the forlorn hope as the sole *terrorum causa belli*. The writer's encounter with one of these hysterical guards is vividly impressed upon his memory. The scene was the College *campus* - the hour, well, anywhere between midnight and dawn. A social function of unusual attractiveness in neighboring Georgetown had lured the young collegian to disregard the rule connected with the early closing of the

College gates. In anticipation of his late return he had secured, from the officer of the day, the coveted countersign. Knowing by experience that it was impracticable to bribe the *Cerberus* of the outer portal nothing remained for our adventurer but to scale the wall and trust to the cabalistic countersign for his safe and unobserved attainment of the dormitory. Fate, however, was against him. He had climbed the wall successfully at a point of deepest shadow and was speeding stealthily across the intervening *campus* when every nerve was thrilled by the sharp and angry call of a hitherto invisible sentry to halt! followed by the demand "Who goes there?" Before our startled truant could make the usual response of "A friend!" the ominous click of the musket lock was borne upon his ears and, in the dim light of the stars, he beheld the point of a bayonet nervously agitated within a few inches of his breast. The situation was embarrassing to say the least. The sentry's trepidation was manifested by the quivering of his piece and the excited repetition of his demand for the countersign. This our student found to his consternation he had totally forgotten. Like the self-imprisoned poacher in Ali Baba's new found cave, he ran over, frantically, in his mind every conceivable syllable that could, in the remotest degree, recall the cabalistic countersign. He was confronted by two evils almost equally formidable. The one was the imminent danger of being shot by the accidental discharge of the nervously handled weapon—the other that the sentry's cry of alarm would disclose the fact of his escapade to the College authorities. To obviate the latter our student resorted to every persuasive of which he was master, but in vain. The sentry could not be persuaded that he had before him a mild and inoffensive academician instead of a rebel

scout backed, in the shadows beyond, by a whole detachment of bloodthirsty guerillas. Finding that no alternative remained, therefore, the sentry was urged to call the guard which, being done, our hero was recognized by the Corporal and permitted to seek the quiet and seclusion of his couch without further interruption. Whether it was that the eye of an indulgent prefect refused to note the dereliction or the frequency of similar alarms had made the college guardians indifferent to inquiry, I do not know, but in this instance, certainly, the penalty failed to follow the crime.

During the sojourn of the 69th within the College bounds a most impressive sight was witnessed by the writer. The men of the regiment were, probably without exception, Catholics. A temporary altar had been erected for their spiritual accommodation at the southern extremity of the *campus* which overlooked the Potomac and was plainly visible from the opposite hills which formed the steep Virginia shore. It was the custom of the regiment, which numbered 1,400 men, to assemble, daily, on the open *campus* for early mass. On an especially cloudless morning in May of that year, 1861, the men were kneeling, nearly prostrate, at the canon the most solemn moment of the service. The regimental band which, up to that moment, had poured a flood of sacred melody upon the palpitating air, was silent and not a sound broke the solemn stillness save, possibly, the twitter of a passing bird. At this supreme crisis in the sacred ceremony my eyes were rivetted to the crest of the opposite hills by the glitter of arms and military accoutrements. A group of Confederate officers, attended by a small guard of cavalrymen engaged in reconnoitering and attracted, evidently, by the recent strains of martial music, had halted when in full view of the college grounds and

were intently studying, by the aid of glasses, the curious and unusual spectacle afforded by the reverent worshipers in blue. It was like the ominous hush which precedes the bursting of the tropical tornado. But two months hence and the participants in that peaceful May-morn pantomime would be struggling for victory and finding death or wounds in the coil of battle on the blood-soaked plain of Manassas by the reddened stream of Bull Run. The picture is one of the few which life presents to remain unfaded at its close.

During the period of which I speak the public facility for making the journey (and the term may be taken in its literal sense) from the Navy Yard to Georgetown was afforded by the omnibus line controlled and owned by Cornelius Vanderwercken. I remember the name because it was intimately associated in my boyish fancy, with that of the mysterious Vanderdecken of Flying Dutchman notoriety. Not that there was anything in the speed of Vanderwercken's vehicles to suggest the rapid-transit qualities of Vanderdecken's spectral ship. But—and I blush to own it—a fancied resemblance between the names ever associated the two in my boyish fancy and the coincidence was probly strengthened by comparing the discomforts of the omnibus with the legendary ills which threatened him who would rashly board the pirate's spellbound craft. These ills, however, I always aimed to mitigate by climbing to a seat beside the driver from which coigne of vantage I could interest myself sufficiently in passing objects to measurably forget the misery of being jolted and bruised, almost beyond endurance, over the rough pavement of Pennsylvania Avenue.

The unpaved condition of the streets and avenues at this time was productive of unqualified discomfort. In the comparatively dry season of summer every electric

tempest was heralded by a veritable dust-storm of corresponding violence and of all-pervading dimensions. The effect of these frequent visitations upon the inflammable tempers of model housewives may be imagined but cannot be described. In the wet months of winter and spring the carriage-ways were often rivers of mud and, in some instances, were, indeed, absolutely impassable. The continual movement of apparently interminable wagon trains and of large bodies of cavalry and infantry tended, as may be imagined, to intensify the discomforts of the situation.

Happily, the aera of Vanderwecken stages like that of the Flying Dutchman is relegated to the past and sanctified by tradition. The cobble-stones and the dirt carriageways are no less traditional and as much may be, luckily, said of the marvellous perversion of taste which would have made of Pennsylvania Avenue a perpetual *memento mori* by the presence, throughout its length, of the prim and shadeless -the inexpressibly funereal poplar of Lombardy.

It is somewhat more than a century since the first President of the Republic made his negotiations for the land which should constitute the nation's capital. A century has not yet passed since Congress first assembled within its bounds. A hundred years ordinarily counts for little in the age of cities or states. History, for instance, fails to measure the time which actually elapsed before the vaulting ambition of Rome o'erleaped the narrow bounds of the *urbs quadrata*. It was many centuries before the unequal growth of London gave assurance of her present peerless development and the same may be said of Paris and of other relatively important capitals of European states. Compared with the older prototypes to which I refer the growth of Washington may truly be said to have been

phenomenal. In this it naturally partakes the national development of which it is the center and the heart. In the ratio of the nation's progress has been the progress of its central political mart. Sensitive to every economic influence that could affect the general weal, the city has reflected, in its physical no less than in its social, moral and intellectual features, every stage in the evolution of national advancement, manners, ethics and mental culture. It has shared no less in the operation of those causes which have retarded national development. Chief among these was the almost incomprehensible cancer on the body politic—the blight of human slavery. With the excision of this tumor by the heroic surgery of war the vital fluid, hitherto arrested in its energizing flow, coursed through every artery and informed all parts of the corporate system alike. It was impossible that the heart should fail to receive its proportionate supply and, from that happy period, may be dated the establishment of perfect sympathy and accord between the development of the nation and the development of the capital city. The cause which quickens the pulse of any member of this ideal system of nationality affects, as by a subtle telepathy, the cardiac center and is fostered or resisted just as it may be beneficial or injurious to the political body.

As we glance, in retrospection, through the vista of an hundred years how the heart is quickened and the imagination fired by the dramatic scenes which have been enacted within these narrow bounds. What matchless eloquence has been evoked in the assertion of our nation's rights—of the liberty of our kind. What anathemas have been hurled at wrong, at tyranny, at oppression. What colossi have moved among us—what intellects have towered in our midst. The very



streets are consecrated by the tread of heroes. At every turn arise Valhallas constructed by the reverential touch of Memory.

Here has been the seat of a line of illustrious executives. From Washington to Cleveland—what nation, known to the historiographer, presents a succession of rulers equally unselfish, equally patriotic and equally free from the vices which inure, almost universally, to the exercise of similarly extensive powers?

From this point has radiated, through all these years and to all parts of the political system, the potent expression of the legislative will. Here the destinies of the nation have been shaped by Clay, by Webster and by a host of statesmen and earnest students of political science. This city has been, at all times, the rallying point of the nation's defenders. It was so in war—it is preeminently so in time of peace. Here is being expounded and here *has* been expounded, from time to time, since the foundation of the government, the tenets of that wonderful condensation of human wisdom as applied to the government of man—the Constitution. Here the pen of Marshall was busied for more than thirty years in the exposition of that great charter of our rights and government. Here he and his illustrious colleagues and his and their successors have been, and the survivors yet are, familiar figures upon the streets and thoroughfares of the capital whose stability they have done so much to assure.

Had the Constitution done no more than render possible such an august and irreproachable tribunal for the administration of justice its claim upon our admiration must have been transcendent. But it has done more. In creating the Nation's Capital it has provided a sanctuary for the Nation's freedom—a training ground for its liberties. It is one thing to be free—it

is another and a greater thing to merit freedom. Freedom and ignorance are halting companions. Neither is freedom compatible with vice. The soul that is enthralled cannot animate the stroke which would free. Hence the need of instruction and of instructors in the science of liberty. Hence the need of a place which should be devoted, exclusively, to that exalted cult. Appreciating this need the framers of the Constitution provided for the government's exclusive control of such place as might forever serve for the location of the temple of national freedom. Here it is provided that the sacred rites shall be perpetually performed and here it is ordained that the sacred fires shall burn unquenchably.

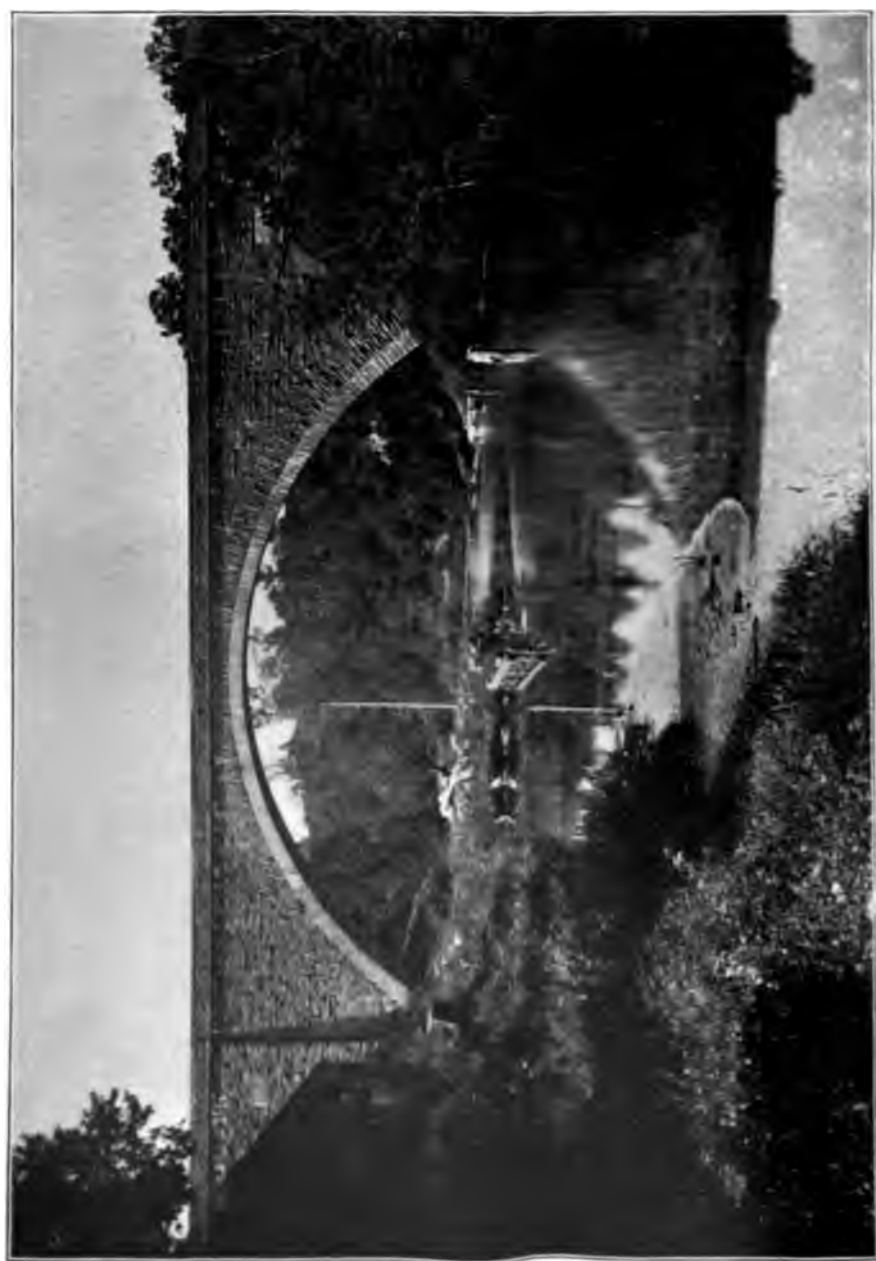
Made sacred by the associations of a glorious past, our city claims the admiration of mankind not less on that account than because of her rapidly developing physical and intellectual graces. She has garnered, in rich profusion, the mental treasures of the globe. In every department of science—in the realms of literature and of art she is the peer of every co-existent capital. It needs only the erection of that fondest dream of her founder—a National University—to make her limits the intellectual Mecca of the civilized world.

Fifty years of progress have been compassed within the period that has elapsed since the termination of the war. Few streets remain unpaved and the urban limits are being rapidly pushed to the exterior bounds of the District. The awkward municipal divisions which formerly characterized the latter have yielded place to an autonomous government. What was Georgetown once is West Washington now and the Levy Court has long since expired with the County it was supposed to govern. Miles of stately edifices usurp the place of squalid tenements or unconverted marsh land. The

prophetic plan of Washington and the zealous L'Enfant has been realized in all essential details. The nation, become acquainted with its capital through the exigencies of the war, has decreed that the future prosperity of that capital shall be commensurate with its own.

It may be said of our beloved Capital City that as she was, practically, baptized by the fires of war so has she been by war confirmed in her career of prosperity. Consecrated forevermore to Peace and to the Arts of peace, may she be perpetual with the Nation which gave her birth!





Construction During the Years 1888-1890, across the Passaic Valley near Conoverville

away from Washington, to any part of the Union, to superintend the erection of fortifications or other public works.

Captain Montgomery C. Meigs had shown such marked ability in the conduct of this great undertaking that Congress, by the use of the language in the act, merely intended to thus express its approval of his labors, and that he continue in the charge thereof, but not in any wise to restrict the constitutional powers of the President. However, it is worthy of notice that a few days after the message mentioned, Captain Meigs was relieved of the charge of the aqueduct, and in July, 1860, he was ordered to Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, Florida, in connection with the public works at that place. He remained there but a few months, returning in February, 1861.

Captain Meigs assumed charge of the work at its inception, after the appropriation of \$5,000 was made in 1852. The surveys, projects, and estimates for the general system of water supply for the city which is now in use, were prepared by him. (See his report of February 12, 1853, S. Ex. Doc. 48, 2d sess. 32d Congress.) Many difficulties arose in its construction—valleys had to be arched and hills required to be tunnelled in order to provide for the conduit; but the engineering genius and force of Captain Meigs was equal to the occasion.

The most serious obstacle encountered was at Cabin John run. The ravine was too wide and deep to fill, and the only solution was an aqueduct over the valley. At first it was decided to span it with a bridge of masonry supported on a series of piers and arches, at an estimated cost of \$72,409, considerably below the ultimate cost of the present structure. (See p. 26 S. Ex. Doc. 48, 2d sess. 32d Congress, *supra*.) Subsequently this plan was changed, and it was determined that the

present magnificent affair should be constructed, to excel any structure of its kind on earth, and at the same time to be a lasting and imperishable monument to the genius of its engineer and to the possibilities of modern bridge building. To the day of his death, Captain Meigs was proud of his achievement.

Early in the year 1857, before any work had been done on the bridge or its foundations, he sought for a man possessed of practical experience in the construction of heavy masonry, to act as general superintendent and inspector, whose duty it should be to supervise the construction, to see to the progress of the work, and that all the many and complex details were carried out to the letter.

I may say, with pardonable pride, that my father, Mr. Charles T. Curtis, was selected by Captain Meigs to fill this important and responsible position. Mr. Curtis had had long experience and training under Col. Thayer in the building of Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, and afterwards in connection with the construction of the Boston Aqueduct. He took charge of the work early in 1857, and continued in his position until 1863, when the bridge was practically complete. He then went to New England, in connection with other public works, such as fortifications and sea-walls, and until his death, which took place in 1893, he was actively engaged upon public works of a similar character, having devoted a period of over 50 years of his life in the service of the Government. Much of the data I now relate relative to the bridge I have heard and obtained from his own lips, and from his papers now in my possession.

Although a small child at the time my father was in charge of the construction of the bridge, I remember quite distinctly the appearance of the work as it pro-

gressed, the host of workmen, and the mass of stone, lumber, and other material used in its construction. To see the completed bridge as it is to-day in all its beauty, the lovely valley and creek beneath, and the forest trees, one can scarcely realize the place of that day and the present to be the same.

In order to provide for the transportation by water of the stone and other material, a large dam was built across the creek a short distance above the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, and a lock was constructed at that point to permit boats to be floated into the pond, which, at that time, filled the valley beneath the bridge. Remains of the lock and dam can be seen to-day, and in place of the pond as it then existed a beautiful grove of trees has grown, changing the entire landscape.

The first work upon the bridge proper began early in 1857, and consisted in clearing away the underbrush and débris on the contemplated site of the structure as shown by the survey. The soil was removed until rock foundation was reached. This, in turn, was blasted away until the solid ledge of the hill was exposed. All disintegrated portions were removed, the surface smoothed off, and a proper face made for the reception of the arch by a hydraulic bed of cement and broken stone.

As the superstructure was to be very massive, it required a correspondingly heavy center or trestle to support it during construction. This trestle rested upon a series of stone piers, which piers still remain, and are now used as the support for a rustic foot bridge over the creek.

In addition to the main trestle a further framework was constructed to carry a system of traveling cranes, by which means the stone was transported to various



portions of the structure as it was used. The remains of the piers carrying this framework for the cranes can also be seen in the valley, outside of the lines of the bridge.

The work was rapidly pushed, so that on December 4, 1858, the arch was keyed, and by July 1, 1859, the voussoirs, or arch stones, as well as a considerable portion of the abutments, were in position. As before stated, Captain Meigs was in charge of the bridge and the aqueduct from the date of the first survey, in 1852, until July 1860, when he was relieved by orders of the War Department, and Captain Henry W. Benham, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., was placed in charge. Captain Benham remained in control but a very short time, and he in turn was succeeded by Lieutenant James St. C. Morton, of the same corps, who was subsequently killed during the siege of Petersburg, Va., on June 17, 1864.

February 22, 1861, just before the breaking out of the Civil War and after an absence of only six or seven months, Captain Meigs returned from Fort Jefferson, and again assumed charge of the work on the bridge and aqueduct, and the same were practically completed by him as chief engineer.

At the breaking out of the war considerable anxiety was felt by those in authority lest the Confederates should set fire to the center or trestle, and so destroy the arch; and some time in May, 1861, the trestle was removed.

On account of the immense amount of business of the War Department by reason of the war, and to relieve that department of this extra duty, on June 18, 1862 (12 Stat., 620), Congress adopted a joint resolution transferring the supervision of the Potomac water-works to the Department of the Interior, and directed

that the work should be completed under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of the Interior. It so remained until 1867, when it was again transferred to the War Department, where it is to-day, under the charge of the able engineer, Captain D. DuB. Gaillard.

On December 5, 1863, the water was turned into the aqueduct, but the bridge proper was not completed until the following year. While this was the first water passing through the aqueduct from the Potomac River at the Great Falls, yet on January 3, 1859, water was introduced into the city by means of small mains or supply pipes from the receiving reservoir above Georgetown.

The present parapet walls are built of red sandstone, from the quarries at Seneca on the Potomac, and were constructed in 1872--73. From 1864 until that time the only protection for teams and pedestrians was a low guard-rail of timbers or logs.

From about May or June, 1861, until July, 1862, a period of little over one year, active work upon the bridge ceased, owing to the Civil War then waging.

Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, in his report to the President, November 29, 1862, speaking of the Potomac water-works, says:

"On the 15th of July last the supervision of this work was transferred from the War Department to this department, under the authority of a joint resolution of Congress. The work was suspended in the spring of 1861, and was not resumed until after its transfer to this department. Since that time the work has been in progress, and it is estimated that it may be completed by the 1st of July, 1863.  
\* \* \*

"All the work, which will be done under the direction of W. R. Hutton, Esq., the present engineer, will be in accordance with the plans of General Meigs, which have received the sanction of Congress."

In May, 1861, Captain Meigs became quartermaster-general, with his headquarters in Washington, and when the work was resumed in the summer of 1862,

under the orders of the Secretary of the Interior, General Meigs ceased to have any further charge of the work, and Mr. William R. Hutton was thereupon appointed chief engineer, who held the position until July, 1863, when he was succeeded by Mr. Silas Seymour.

Mr. Seymour, in his annual report to Hon. John P. Usher, Secretary of the Interior, under date of October 1, 1863, says:

"Before closing this report, I deem it proper as an act of justice to the gentlemen who have preceded me as engineer in charge of this great national work, as well as a matter of historic interest, to state that the Washington Aqueduct was originally projected upon its present general plan and location by Brigadier General Montgomery C. Meigs, now Quartermaster General of the United States Army; and that the work, so far as executed (with the exception of a portion of the dam in the Potomac, and the water facings of the distributing reservoir), has been done in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by him and generally under his own supervision."

To-day this noble structure is without a rival on earth as far as an arch or span of masonry is concerned. It is 450 feet long over all, including the abutments. It has a single span of 220 feet, and a rise of 57.26 feet. The radii of the intrados and extrados of the granite ring are, respectively, 134.2852 feet and 143.2695 feet. It is 4.2 feet thick at the crown, 20.4 feet wide, and carries a brick conduit 9 feet in diameter. There are 11,914.18 cubic yards of masonry, 852.66 cubic yards of concrete, and 516 cubic yards of brickwork used in its construction. The cut stone arch, or ring, is of Quincy (Mass.) granite, shipped to Georgetown by vessels, and thence to the bridge by way of the canal. The rubble arch and spandrels are Seneca sandstone, and the abutments are gneiss from Montgomery county, Maryland. The arch stones are each 2 feet thick, 4.2 feet deep at the crown, and 6.2 feet at the springing line. The surface of the roadway is

about 100 feet above the bottom of the ravine. The total cost of the bridge, including the parapet walls, was about \$254,000. These figures are from the official records and reports.

History records one bridge or stone arch larger than Cabin John. It spanned the Adda, a tributary of the Po, at Trezzo, in northern Italy. The date of the construction of this bridge cannot be determined with accuracy. One authority states that it was constructed in the year A. D. 1380 by order of the Duke of Milan, and was destroyed by the Italian general Carmagnola in 1427. This bridge consisted of a single stone arch of granite, with a span of 251 feet, 31 feet more than that of Cabin John. It had a rise of 88 feet, and at the crown was only 4 feet thick. The name of the engineer is unknown. Prof. Ira O. Baker, in his *Treatise on Masonry Construction*, gives the same dates as to when the bridge was constructed and destroyed, and also the figures concerning its dimensions.

Within the last few years several large masonry bridges have been constructed in Europe, very similar in design to that of Cabin John. The most important of these is the Jaremcze railway viaduct over the river Pruth, in Galicia, on the line of the Austrian Stanislaw-Woronienka railroad, having a single arch over the river of 65 meters span (213½ feet), with a rise of 58 feet. It is built of sandstone, with a thickness of 6 feet 10½ inches at the crown and 10 feet 2 inches at the skew-backs, and is 14 feet 9 inches wide. The main arch consists of two thicknesses of dimension stones, which head into each other, while the spandrel arches are built of rubble masonry. It is stated to have cost only \$40,400, due mainly to the low price of labor and the abundance of material in the immediate vicinity, such as the stone, and the timber used in the construction of the falseworks.

The Lavour bridge in France, on the line of the Limoges and Brives Railway, is of the same general design as the Jaremcze structure. It has a single span of 61.50 meters ( $201\frac{3}{4}$  feet).

The largest span stone arch in Great Britain is the famous Grosvenor Bridge over the River Dee at Chester, England, having a span of 200 feet.

The Ballochmyle viaduct on the Glasgow and South Western Railway has a span of 180 feet.

[See paper on Masonry bridges by Von Karl Von Leibbrand, Leipzig, 1897. Also Vol. 85, p. 63 of "Engineering," London, issue of January 21st, 1898; also Vol. 25, p. 852 Railroad Gazette (N. Y.), issue of Nov. 24th, 1893, and Vol. 27, p. 308, same publication, issue of May 17th, 1895.]

On p. 159 of Vol. 53, "Engineering," Feb. 5th, 1892, it is stated, referring to Cabin John Bridge, that, "this bridge is second only in span to the one over the Adda already referred to, and is, I believe, the longest span for a stone arch now standing."

See also article by Robert Jamison on Famous Bridges of the World appearing in Vol. 20, p. 553 Chautauquan 1894-95, wherein he says that nothing now remains of the Adda bridge at Trezzo, except a small portion of the arch.

All the authorities, however, agree that "Cabin John" stands to-day unrivaled, the nearest approach to it being the aforementioned bridge over the Pruth at Jaremcze,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  feet less in span.

The working plans and drawings of Cabin John Bridge, as well as much of the detail work of that character up to the spring of 1861, which are now on file in the office of the Washington Aqueduct, and the War Department, appear to have been prepared and performed mainly by Mr. Alfred L. Rives, the assistant

engineer, who was a graduate of the *Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées* in Paris. At the breaking out of the Civil War Mr. Rives resigned his position, went south, and joined hands with the Confederacy, an act on his part which caused Captain Meigs to feel very much affronted, and which may account for certain orders of Captain Meigs referred to hereafter. I am informed that Mr. Rives is engaged in his profession somewhere in Central America, and possesses a very high reputation as an engineer. He is the father of Amelie Rives, the authoress.

After the resignation of Mr. Rives, in 1861, he was succeeded by Mr. William R. Hutton, and in 1862, when work was resumed under the direction of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Hutton became the chief engineer. At present he is a very prominent and successful civil engineer in the city of New York. The famous Washington Bridge over the Harlem river is but one of his productions.

Much has been said and written during late years concerning the erasure from the bridge of the name of Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War during the administration of President Pierce. At the time of the death of General Meigs, in 1892, several articles were published charging him with being the author of the erasure, and they called forth several denials from his friends. On September 8th of that year a card appeared in one of our local papers over the name of Mr. Hutton, which is of interest to note, coming, as it does, from one so intimately connected with the bridge at that time. He says:

"In June, 1862, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Caleb B. Smith, to whose department the aqueduct had just been transferred, I accompanied the Secretary and a number of Members of Congress on a tour of inspection of the aqueduct by way of the canal. Opposite Cabin John several of the party disembarked, and

walked to the bridge for a nearer view. Returning in hot haste, 'Do you know', said Hon. Galusha Grow to the Secretary, 'that rebel Meigs has put Jeff. Davis's name on the bridge?' Turning to me, the Secretary said: 'The first order I give you is to cut Jeff. Davis's name off the bridge.' A few days later I was appointed chief engineer of the aqueduct. Not taking seriously the Secretary's remarks, I did nothing in the matter. A week later Mr. Robert McIntyre, the contractor, arrived to resume his work upon the bridge, and called to pay his respects to the Secretary. The Secretary said to him that they had put Jeff. Davis's name on the bridge, and he wished he would cut it off. 'With the greatest pleasure, Mr. Secretary,' was the reply, and the contractor's first work was to remove Mr. Davis's name."

Mr. Charles T. Curtis, who was superintendent and inspector at that time, has often stated to me that General Meigs had nothing whatever to do with the erasure mentioned, but that it was done by order of the Secretary, and the work of cutting out the name was performed by one of the stone-cutters then at work on the bridge.

The inscription on the west abutment, above mentioned, showing the erasure of the name of Jefferson Davis, is in these words:

Washington Aqueduct.  
 Begun A. D. 1853. President of the U. S.,  
 Franklin Pierce. Secretary of War,  
 Building, A. D. 1861,  
 President of the U. S., Abraham Lincoln.  
 Secretary of War, Simon Cameron.

Captain Meigs, being apprehensive lest some action might be had looking to his removal as engineer in charge of the aqueduct, and desiring to perpetuate his own name as chief engineer of the bridge, caused the following inscription to be cut, in deep, imperishable letters, upon two of the arch or ring stones near the east abutment:

M. C. MEIGS.  
 Chief Engineer, Washington Aqueduct,  
 A. D. 1859. *Per se.*

This was done before the tablets in the east and west abutments had been placed in position, and at a period

shortly before he was relieved and ordered to Fort Jefferson. His motive apparently was to have the fact indelibly placed on record that he alone was engineer of the noble structure and to him should be given the credit.

In connection with the subject of erasure, there is another interesting historical fact worthy of notice, which I relate substantially as I have often heard it from Mr. Curtis and Mr. Hutton:

Between July, 1860, and February, 1861, a period of only six or seven months, Captain Meigs was absent as above stated, and during this time Captain Henry W. Benham and Lieutenant James St. C. Morton were in charge of the work. An examination of the photographs in my possession, which were taken during the progress of construction, will show that the work on the bridge at this time (July, 1860) was very much advanced. However, during the short period of his supervision, Lieutenant Morton had his own name, as well as that of Captain Benham, cut on the face of two of the arch stones immediately under those bearing the inscription placed there by Captain Meigs, and designating themselves as chief engineers. On his return in February following, Captain Meigs, observing what had been done, gave orders to have their names erased (which was done), contending that it was improper to have their names appear on the bridge as chief engineers, especially as the work performed by them during his absence was simply a continuation of his projects and plans, which had received the approval of Congress. (12 Stats., 106.)

A short time thereafter Captain Meigs had the large tablet in the east abutment placed in position, and caused the following inscription to be cut thereon:



UNION ARCH,  
Chief Engineer, Captain Montgomery  
C. Meigs, U. S. Corps of Engineers.  
*Esto perpetua.*

It has been stated that, in recognition of the engineering genius of his assistant engineer, Mr. Alfred L. Rives, it was the intention of Captain Meigs to have his name appear on this tablet with his own, and that he had proceeded so far as to have the name of Mr. Rives traced thereon preparatory to cutting it in; but at this juncture Mr. Rives resigned and went south, and as a result the wording was changed, and the above inscription was cut thereon with the name of Mr. Rives omitted.

The origin of the title "Cabin John" as applied to the creek, and likewise to the bridge which spans it, is somewhat shadowy and traditionary. There is a story or legend that at an early date in the century a mysterious character occupied a rough cabin on the banks of the creek, a short distance above the present site of the bridge. The only name he was known by was "John"; sometimes he was spoken of as "John of the Cabin", and also as "Captain John". Upon some of the old records of Montgomery county, Maryland, the name of this creek is given as "*Captain John*". The present name, Cabin John, is either a corruption of "Captain John" or was derived from "John of the Cabin". He is stated to have led the life of a hermit, fishing in the streams and hunting in the neighboring forests being his only means of subsistence. It is said that at a subsequent period, many years ago, he mysteriously disappeared, and nothing was ever known as to his fate. During the days of slavery the old negroes of the vicinity claimed that the ghost of "Cabin John" was often seen by them near his lonely and deserted cabin.

After the erection of the bridge it was commonly known as Cabin John, taking its name from the creek it spanned, although it is specified upon the records as "Union Arch," and is so inscribed upon the tablet on the east abutment.

The history relating to this wonderful bridge and the incidents connected with its construction I have heard so often from the lips of my father that I love to revisit the scene, view its noble span, and recount the many days when but a child I watched its progress. It seems as yesterday, yet in the meantime many of those connected with its construction have passed away.

The years roll by, but the bridge is as solid and as immovable as the everlasting hills, and, as so aptly inscribed on the abutment, *esto perpetua*—it will last forever, and remain for the eyes of generations yet unborn a monument to the genius and inspiration of its engineer, Montgomery C. Meigs. Nor will time obscure or belittle the glory achieved by the mind that conceived its graceful lines, or the credit due to the assistants who directed its construction with so much precision and detail that not a stone has moved or settled to mar its beauty, symmetry, or strength.\*

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\* I am indebted to Prof. W. J. McGee, Ethnologist in charge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, for several of the photographs exhibited by me showing the bridge during its construction. The negatives have been preserved and are now on file in said Bureau.

Through the courtesy of General A. W. Greely the writer has been able to obtain several interesting photographs of the bridge.

## THE OFFICE OF SURVEYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

By Henry B. Looker.

[Read before the Society February 7th, 1898.]

By the Act of Congress approved July 16, 1790 (U. S. Stats 1, p. 130), after defining the general limits within which the District should be fixed, the President was empowered to appoint three Commissioners to survey and by proper metes and bounds define and limit a district of territory for the permanent seat of the government of the United States. These Commissioners were also empowered to purchase or accept such land as should be needed and to "provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress, and of the President, and for the public offices of the government".

The Commissioners were appointed and under their direction, the District was surveyed and marked; plans for the Federal City were prepared showing the location of the various government buildings; agreements were drawn up and signed by the proprietors of the land selected for the site of the City, by the terms of which there was to be a division of the squares and lots after the city was laid out; architects and contractors were employed upon the public buildings and the survey of the city was proceeded with.

The Act of Congress approved May 1, 1802 U. S. Stats 2, p. 175) abolished the above mentioned Board of three Commissioners, and provided, as their legal successor, a Superintendent, to be appointed by the

President; and the Commissioners were required to deliver up to such Superintendent "all plans, drafts, books, records, accounts, deeds, grants, contracts, bonds, obligations, securities and other evidences of debt, in their possession, which relate to the city of Washington, and the affairs heretofore under their superintendence or care."

The Act of Congress approved January 13, 1809 (U. S. Stats 3, p. 511) prescribes the duties of the Surveyor of the city of Washington and proceeds as follows:

"Sec. 7. That all records of the division of Squares and lots heretofore made between the public and original proprietors, or which are authorized by this Act, shall be kept in the office of the Surveyor of the city of Washington, and all transcripts therefrom, certified by him, shall be evidence equally valid with the certified transcripts from the keeper of the office for recording deeds for the conveyance of land in the county of Washington."

Section 8 provides that lots or squares belonging to the United States within the city of Washington may be subdivided by the said Surveyor under direction of the President:

Section 9 requires that the Surveyor, shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take an oath or affirmation before the Mayor of the city of Washington, that he will faithfully and impartially perform his duty.

Down to this time (1809) it is perfectly apparent that the Commissioners and subsequently the Superintendent had the legal custody of *all* the records—maps of the District and of the city, plats of the squares and lots, deeds of the original proprietors, etc., etc., as well as contracts for the erection of buildings, bonds, obligations, and accounts of every sort connected with their duties: but the time had doubtless now been reached

when the "laying out" of the city had been completed, and a division of the records and duties of the Superintendent became not only a natural and logical sequence, but a business necessity.

That it was the intention of Congress in passing the Act of 1809, to bring about just such a division, and to make an absolute and complete separation of the two offices seems clear, from the fact that a new title was given to the Surveyor; his duties were defined and enlarged; he was required to take an oath; he was equipped with the records pertaining to his new office; he was made the only officer whose certificate of transcripts of those records was legal evidence, and he was given the power to subdivide government property as well as that of private individuals.

The Surveyor of the city of Washington thus became the legal successor of the original Commissioners and of the Superintendent, so far as relates to the survey, location, and subdivision of land and the custody of *all* the records (then in the Superintendent's possession) bearing upon such work; and if it can be shown that the present office of Surveyor of the District of Columbia is the legal successor to the office of Surveyor of the city of Washington mentioned in the Act of 1809, it must necessarily follow that this office is entitled to the same records.

Before proceeding to show the continuity of the office of Surveyor, I desire to call attention to the later legislation respecting the Superintendent and his successors.

After the destruction of the Capitol and other government buildings by the British in 1814 the Superintendent was assisted in the labor of rebuilding by three Commissioners.

By Act approved April 29, 1816 (U. S. Stats 3, p. 324) Congress abolished the office of the three Commission-

ers for the superintendence of the Public Buildings, and also the office of Superintendent, and in lieu thereof, provided for the appointment by the President, of one Commissioner, to perform all the duties with which the said three Commissioners and the Superintendent had been charged, and he was to receive from the three Commissioners "all plans, drafts, books, records, accounts, contracts, bonds, obligations, securities and other evidences of debt in their possession, which belong to their office," and from the Superintendent "all documents, securities, books and papers relating to his office." Attention is called to the fact that nothing is said about the transfer of maps or plats of squares and lots to this Commissioner as in the Act of 1809 to the Surveyor.

In the Sundry Civil Bill passed by Congress and approved March 2d, 1867 (U. S. Stats 14, p. 466) the office of Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds was abolished and the Chief of Engineers of the Army was required to perform all duties of the former, and consequently became the custodian of all records *legally* held by said Commissioner, but this law does not specify the transfer of any public property, as is clearly done in the two previous acts transmitting these duties. The Chief of Engineers in his report of 1895, referring to this Act of March 2, 1867, says he "thereby became the lawful successor of the "original Commissioners appointed by President Washington in 1791 "and the custodian of the original records." In this conclusion I cannot concur, so far as relates to the records of division of lands in the city of Washington and the maps and plats relating thereto, because, as has been shown above, those maps, plats and records had been diverted from the office of the Superintendent by the Act of 1809.

Now to return to the question of the continuity of the office of Surveyor:—

The first mention made of such an officer, in the statutes, is in the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1803 (U. S. Stats 2, p. 335) fixing the compensation of "the Surveyor."

In the Act approved March 27, 1804 (U. S. Stats 3, p. 397) the compensation of "the Surveyor" is fixed at \$3.00 a day, to be paid by the Superintendent, thus showing apparently that the Surveyor was a subordinate of the Superintendent at that time, though quite possibly a direct appointee of the President during the whole period from 1796 to 1815,—data as to Nicholas King giving color to this view, and there being nothing to controvert it in any of the records I have been able to reach.

In 1802 (U. S. Stats No. 2, p. 195) by Act approved May 3 (or two days after the approval of the Act constituting the office of Superintendent) Congress authorized the incorporation of the city of Washington, the council being elective, the Mayor to be appointed by the President. The Mayor was authorized to appoint all officers under the corporation, and therefore *presumably* the Surveyor of the city.

Then comes the Act of 1809 concerning the office of Surveyor of the city of Washington (so called, for the first time in any Act of Congress) and requiring that officer to qualify by taking an oath of office before the Mayor of the city of Washington.

It would seem that this Act paved the way for the transfer of the Surveyor's office, from under the control of the General government to that of the municipal government, for, although the office was probably still under at least the nominal control of the general government, the Surveyor's services were doubtless chiefly

needed by the city government and the citizens generally.

Nicholas King, who had long been a Surveyor under the Commissioners and the Superintendent, was the first person appointed "Surveyor of the City of Washington" and his signatures in Record Book "N. K." also in Book 1 of Division of Squares, (records of the Surveyor's office) show clearly that he signed as such from August 1809 until July 1811. He was succeeded by his son Robert King, who signs as surveyor of the city of Washington until December 10, 1812.

For the next two years and a half, so far as the records of this office are concerned, there does not appear to have been any work for a Surveyor of the city of Washington. At any rate there are no surveys recorded or signed during that time, but under date of August 3, 1815, the Council of Washington passed an ordinance, (13th Council Chap. 32, p. 28,) doubtless in pursuance of the original Act of Incorporation of May 3, 1802, directing the Mayor to appoint "a citizen, resident of the city, who shall be styled and known as the Surveyor of the city of Washington."

Benjamin H. Latrobe was the first appointed under the new régime, and he was succeeded by others appointed in the same way, continuously until 1848, when by Act of Congress approved May 17, 1848 (U. S. Stats 9, p. 223) the charter of the city was amended and the Surveyor made an elective officer.

Section 8 of this Act provided that "the office of the "Surveyor of the city of Washington shall be the legal "office of record of the plats of all the property in the "city of Washington."

The Surveyor was elected by the people from 1848 to 1871, the date of inception of the Territorial form of government, under which the Governor of the District



of Columbia appointed the "Surveyor of the District of Columbia." Subsequently, and to the present time, the Surveyor of the District of Columbia has been appointed by the Commissioners of the District.

In view of the provisions of the Act of 1809 and of Section 8 of the Act of 1848 it seems very difficult to reach any other conclusion than that the office of Surveyor is the proper repository of *all* the original records affecting in any way the determination of the location and boundaries of any parcel of land within the city of Washington whether public or private. The Acts of 1809, 1836, 1848 and 1895 show clearly the legal continuity of the office to the present day.

Even if there had been a period between Dec. 1812 and Aug. 1815 during which there was no incumbent of the office (a point by no means certain) there was **no** lapse of the office itself, and this possible question is removed by the recognition of the office by the Act of 1848.

The Surveyor's office is the recognized source of information as to all things relating to the location and boundaries of land in the District of Columbia, and should have in its possession all records bearing upon the work of the office. I think it clear that Congress never intended these original land records to be divided between two offices. Whatever there be of legal authority for their custody, must, in my opinion, apply to them as an entirety unless otherwise specifically provided.

Without exception, the title companies and the members of the bar can be safely said to be in favor of the custody of those records by the Surveyor. This office is frequently compelled, in order to settle a doubtful question, to send to the War Department for certified copies of divisions of Squares, the originals of which

are in the office of the Officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, the bound copies in the Surveyor's office being sometimes found defective either by omission or error. And this must be done, although this office is the only office empowered by law to furnish certified copies of all these records, (which certified copies must be accepted as final evidence). Without permission obtained through the usual official channels the Surveyor cannot verify the certified copies from the War Department, by comparison with the originals, and possible mistakes in such certified copies might subject the Surveyor to heavy loss under his bond. The four bound volumes of copies of original division of Squares in the Surveyor's office have been here for nearly 90 years. They are in daily use, and without them it would be impossible to transact the business of the office. A recent decision of the Circuit Court in the case of *Ashley vs. Bradshaw* has pronounced these copies to be originals or practically originals, but this does not relieve the Surveyor of responsibility under his bond in the event of his making a possible mistake through an error in such copies.

The Chief of Engineers of the Army as successor to the Superintendent certainly did not obtain these land records by particular designation; the Surveyor *did*, by the terms of the Act of 1809, so obtain them.

The Act of 1848, clearly confirms, after an interval of 39 years, the Act of 1809 as to the custody of the records of division of squares by the Surveyor.

Why the Surveyor did not at once exercise his legal right to call for and obtain his own records in their entirety does not now appear, nor is it material. Mr. William Forsyth, my immediate predecessor, did, however, strenuously maintain throughout his whole term

of office, covering nearly forty years, that the Surveyor's office should contain all these records.

It seems clear to me, that the division prompted by convenience and propriety was intended to be made by the Act of 1809, viz: the Surveyor should take all that he would naturally require, and that the Superintendent should retain such as were necessary for the care and preservation of the Public Buildings and Grounds, which care was his particular duty. As that division was not made then, it should, in my opinion, be made now, by the transfer to the Surveyor's office, of all records under the control of the Chief of Engineers, relating in any way to the original boundaries of land in the city of Washington.

The names of all the incumbents of the office of Surveyor, so far as I have been able to determine,—with the dates of appointment, are given chronologically as follows:

Nicholas King, Mar. 1st 1809.  
 Robt. King, June 12th 1812.  
 B. H. Latrobe, 1815.  
 J. Elgar, Aug. 6th 1818.  
 F. C. Dekrafft, Oct. 3d 1822.  
 Wm. Elliott, July 26, 1838.  
 Wm. P. Elliott, Sept. 22d 1834.  
 Randolph Coyle, Aug. 20th 1846.  
 C. B. Cluskey, Feb. 1st 1849.  
 H. W. Ball, Nov. 12th 1851.  
 R. Finley Hunt, July 21st 1855.  
 Wm. Forsyth, July 1st 1857.  
 Chas. H. Bliss, July 1st 1867.  
 P. H. Donegan, July 10th 1869.  
 Wm. Forsyth (D. C.), June 10th 1871.  
 Jno. A. Partridge, Aug 27th 1877.  
 Wm. Forsyth, Apl 4th 1881.  
 Wm. Forsyth, Mar. 19, 1895.  
 Henry B. Looker, Aug. 18th, 1897.

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